UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC

Distr.
GENERAL

LC/G.1825(SES.25/21)
29 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-fifth session
Cartagena, Colombia, 20-27 April 1994

THE ROLE OF ECLAC IN COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Note by the secretariat

94-3-367

The effort to increase the level of cooperation, trade and overall exchange and interaction among its member countries, including both the Caribbean Community and the Central American Isthmus, has been a long-term concern of ECLAC and its secretariat.

ECLAC has been involved in and has actively provided support to the integration process in all of Latin America and in a number of subregions. It is in the latter context that the subregional headquarters in Mexico has a long-standing tradition of activities in support of Central American integration, including a special forum: the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee (CCE). In the same vein, support for economic integration in the Caribbean region is implemented by the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. A subregional forum —the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)— has been created for this purpose. CDCC has also been mandated with enhancing the process of dialogue between the Caribbean and the rest of Latin America within a multilateral framework.

Although in previous decades many cooperative programmes between the Caribbean community and Latin American countries had proven to be mere formalities, this situation began to change in 1979, with the San José Declaration (1979).[1] This Declaration was a tangible step towards creating and strengthening mechanisms of cooperation among its 23 signatory nations in the specific fields of energy, trade and transport. Other meaningful actions in this direction were taken in 1989 at a meeting in Tobago, where mechanisms to promote wide-ranging goals and workable arrangements to advance cooperation between the subregions were identified.[2] These were subsequently reinforced in 1990 at a meeting in Caracas (12-13 January).[3]

The twenty-fourth session of ECLAC, held in Santiago, Chile, from 8 to 15 April 1992, devoted attention to "Measures to improve cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean" as reflected and approved in resolution 518(XXIV).[4] It requested the Executive Secretary to formulate a structured programme of cooperation "with particular attention to the area of trade and to issues concerning the attraction of foreign investment to the Caribbean from Europe, the United States, Asia and Latin America". Moreover, the resolution urged representatives of those countries of Latin America and the

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[1] Adopted on 7 July during the First Meeting of Ministers of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE).

[2] At the Tobago meeting, as part of the official Communiqué signed by the heads of CARICOM Governments, the stated goals for advancing Latin American-Caribbean cooperation were: i) regional self-sufficiency in food; ii) joint exploration of the mineral resources; iii) development and exploitation of export potential in selected areas and development of joint marketing capabilities; iv) increase levels of intra-regional trade; and v) sharing of technology.

[3] Barbados, Belice, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the CARICOM secretariat, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, were represented.

[4] ECLAC resolution 518(XXIV), on "Measures to improve cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean".

Caribbean with an interest in the export of tropical products to engage in consultations with a view to securing the interests of those countries, taking into account short-term, medium-term and long-term considerations.

Multilateral efforts to foster cooperation between the Caribbean and Central America are recent, and are closely related in nature to efforts to widen integration activities in both subregions. At the present time, the 13 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are actively engaged in a process of deepening their own association and fostering a stronger relationship with the rest of the Caribbean basin and, in particular, with the Caribbean rim countries, i.e., Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, the Central American countries and Panama.

Some recent events, such as the issue of the Independent West Indian Commission's report "Time for Action",[5] has also emphasized the drive to deepen and accelerate integration and cooperation within the Caribbean subregion. Furthermore, this report has specifically proposed that CARICOM should advance a proposal for an association of Caribbean States to group all the countries of the Caribbean basin including CARICOM member States, the French West Indies, the Netherlands Antilles, the United States Virgin Islands and the British dependent Territories, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Venezuela, Colombia, Central America, Mexico, Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The proposal has in general received the support of the CARICOM heads of Government and endorsement by the Presidents of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, acting as the "Group of Three".[6]

On the other hand, the Central American countries have indicated their intention to restructure the Central American Common Market and to move into a gradual process of trade policy harmonization and full liberalization of the movement of goods, to be extended to services, in a geographical area that will eventually include Belize and Panama. Some recent events tend to signal the beginning of a movement leading both to a deeper and wider integration process in Central America.

Furthermore, two CARICOM/Central American ministerial conferences have taken place, which resulted in agreements to coordinate cooperation in four broad thematic areas: political cooperation and the strengthening of the democratic process, the general scope of cooperation between CARICOM and Central America, trade and investment, and "other areas" of cooperation. Most importantly, the Second CARICOM/Central American Ministerial Conference (Jamaica, 27-28 May 1993) examined proposals to begin a convergence process between the two subregions regarding their relationship with the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI).

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[5] Presented by Mr. Shridath Ramphal, Chairman of the Independent West Indian Commission, during the Special Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 28-31 October 1992. It included a chapter on the need for shaping CARICOM's external relations.

[6] The proposal for an association of Caribbean States was supported by the CARICOM heads of Government at their meeting held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 12-13 October 1993. Further progress in this direction was achieved at the technical meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica, on 16-18 March 1994.

It has become a matter of common interest to all Latin American countries, including the members of the Caribbean Community, to unite their efforts in attracting export processing zones (EPZs), since United States demand for goods produced under various subcontracting schemes might weaken as a result of increased Mexican-North American trade under NAFTA. Some of the countries of the subregion fear that NAFTA could have the undesired side effect of diverting trade, to the detriment of most Caribbean basin economies.[7]

Thus, relations between the United States and Latin America in general and NAFTA in particular pose the need to redefine the agenda of regional integration; there is a clear dimension which relates to Latin American, Central American and Caribbean cooperation. The subregional headquarters of ECLAC are well placed to play a constructive role in such an endeavour.

In sum, there is a growing interest, in the Caribbean and in Central America, in taking steps towards finding common areas of concern with regard to multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations and in creating more favourable investment and trade conditions, both among the countries themselves and as regards third parties, specifically the members of NAFTA. Moreover, the desire to advance towards a broadening and deepening process of overall interaction between the two subregions was expressed at both CARICOM/Central America Ministerial Conferences, although it is not yet clear how to proceed along those lines.

A PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT PROGRAMME/PROJECT OF THE ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN MEXICO AND PORT OF SPAIN

Recent global developments, in particular the conclusion of the NAFTA negotiating process and the effects of a unified European import regime as part of the single European market, are obliging Latin America and the Caribbean to take stock of their current economic positions and to seek pragmatic approaches in order to either maintain their preferences or avoid a major erosion of their present access to their main trading partners.

The fact that both Central American and Caribbean countries are beneficiaries of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and share some basic common features means that a joint initiative of the CBI States with regard to gaining access to NAFTA could be facilitated. Indeed, this could become the major area of Caribbean-Central American cooperation. Whatever possibilities there may be for the two subregions to interact with Latin America as a whole, the United States, Mexico or Canada, a strategy might perhaps be usefully explored involving the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Port of Spain and Mexico, taking advantage of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as an intergovernmental body of the wider Caribbean, and of the Central American Economic Cooperation Committee (CCE) as a Central American intergovernmental forum.

The Caribbean and Central American countries may ultimately seek to accede to membership in NAFTA. Even in the absence of full participation in a free trade area, the stronger links (in the form of trade and investment flows) that now exist within the North American region are already very significant in nature and will have an impact on trade and investment flows between Caribbean basin countries and the United States.

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[7] This concern was expressed by both Caribbean and Central American heads of State when they met with the President of the United States of America in September and November 1993, respectively.

In this context, ECLAC may play a useful role both in promoting cooperation and as a "sounding board" to determine each subregion's concerns. Promoting discussion, generating areas of agreement and consensus and consolidating subregional and regional outlooks should be part of these efforts. They could indeed draw on the tradition of contributions made by ECLAC to the debate, and to supportive actions, on the integration of Central American and Caribbean economies. In order to initiate a process that will achieve concrete results on which to build a wider synergic movement, some specific areas are proposed for joint efforts that could be carried out by the above-mentioned subregional headquarters. These might constitute the first step of a programme that satisfies the request made by the Commission's twenty-fourth session, and could include the following activities or programmes:

1. Pooling of trade and foreign investment information. For this purpose, the first step would be to establish database exchanges within the subregional headquarters (via INTERNET, the Electronic Environmental Information Exchange System (AMBIONET), etc.). This might allow for sharing information that could facilitate research in the subregional headquarters as well as in other governmental or non-governmental research centres in the countries covered by the two ECLAC offices.

2. Joint research on economic development and social equity frameworks. Given the integrated approach proposed by ECLAC as the most balanced, viable and sustainable formula for the advancement of the countries of the region, the translation of that approach into national and subregional policy proposals could be undertaken by promoting joint research, linking academic institutions in the two subregions. In such efforts the ECLAC secretariat would act as a catalyst, not necessarily undertaking the research on its own.

3. NAFTA situational overviews, emphasizing the implications for both subregions and identifying possible joint actions and efforts that might enhance the bargaining power of each subgroup. This would include, first, exchange of information and monitoring of the negotiation processes between countries of the subregions and NAFTA partners, the preparation of "white papers" regarding themes of particular concern to Governments, and identification of possible joint negotiating positions on rules of entry for specific commodities.

4. Evaluation of investment laws and legislation on intellectual property rights. These are issues closely linked to the conditions required to gain access to NAFTA. Proposals and their relation to multilateral agreements would need to be explored.

5. Proposals on furthering economic integration in the Caribbean and Central America, including the evaluation of potential joint ventures in industry, agriculture and services, and of issues regarding the harmonization of industrial and health standards. Involvement of the private sector would be imperative.

The above-mentioned activities could be buttressed by participation of technical experts from the two subregions in meetings organized by either —or both— of the ECLAC subregional headquarters, exchange of research and draft reports, joint preparation of specific documents and support to Governments in their contacts and negotiations with third parties served by either headquarters.

The delegates attending the Commission's twenty-fifth session (Cartagena, Colombia, 20-27 April 1994) may wish to examine this proposal and discuss possible ways to strengthen it, bearing in mind the resources available to the ECLAC secretariat.

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC

Distr.
GENERAL

LC/G.1826(CEG.19/7)
13 April 1994

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT EXPERTS (CEGAN)

(Santiago, Chile, 1-4 March 1994)

94-4-505

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
A. ORGANIZATION OF WORK	1-21	1
Place and date of the meeting	1	1
Attendance	2	1
Election of officers	3	1
Agenda	4	2
Documentation	5	2
Opening meeting	6-14	2
Adoption of the report	15-16	4
Closing meeting	17-21	4
B. SUMMARY OF THE DEBATES	22-158	5
Economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)	22-63	5
The region's linkages with the global economy and changing production patterns with social equity (agenda item 4)	64-102	11
World Summit for Social Development (agenda item 5)	103-148	17
Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (agenda item 6)	149-158	27
C. RESOLUTION	159	28
Annex: PRELIMINARY DRAFT LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT	-	31

A. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The nineteenth session of the Committee of High-Level Government Experts (CEGAN) was held in Santiago, Chile, from 1 to 4 March 1994. CEGAN, which was established by ECLAC resolution 310(XIV), is made up of the developing countries members of the Commission. Pursuant to the mandate entrusted to the Committee by ECLAC resolutions 419(PLEN.14) and 422(XIX), the sessions of the Commission are normally preceded by a meeting of CEGAN.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Committee: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. The British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, associate members of ECLAC, were also represented. Representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) also attended as specially invited guests.

Election of officers

3. At the first meeting, the participants elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Chile
Vice-Chairmen:	Belize
	Brazil
	El Salvador
	Mexico
	Trinidad and Tobago
Rapporteur:	Colombia

Agenda

4. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

   1. Election of officers
   2. Adoption of the provisional agenda
   3. Economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean
   4. The region's linkages with the global economy and changing production patterns with social equity
   5. World Summit for Social Development
   6. Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development
   7. Consideration and adoption of the report.

Documentation

5. The secretariat submitted working documents with the following titles to the Committee: "Open regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Economic integration as a contribution to changing production patterns with social equity" (LC/L.808(CEG.19/3)/Corr.1); "Latin America and the Caribbean: policies to improve linkages with the global economy" (LC/L.809(CEG.19/4)); "The Social Summit: a view from Latin America and the Caribbean" (Note by the secretariat) (LC/L.810(CEG.19/5)).

Opening meeting

6. At the opening meeting, statements were made by the Minister of Economic Affairs, Development and Reconstruction of Chile, Mr. Jaime Tohá González, and the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Mr. Gert Rosenthal.

7. After welcoming participants to the nineteenth session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN), the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that, in recent years, the Commission had sought to reoccupy its traditional place as a centre for economic thinking and collective reflection. In that framework, CEGAN had evolved into a forum of the Latin American and Caribbean member States designed to facilitate the adoption of joint positions *vis-à-vis* the developed countries members of the Commission, and to provide a chance to examine topics concerning intraregional cooperation and the domestic policies of the countries of the region.

8. On the present occasion, CEGAN had before it a very extensive and varied agenda, one of whose items was the preliminary draft Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development prepared as part of the process of general mobilization of Governments and non-governmental organizations in relation to the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at Cairo in September 1994.

9. Secondly, participants would also have to consider the note prepared by the secretariat concerning the World Summit for Social Development, bearing in mind that the United Nations General Assembly had called upon the regional commissions to participate actively in the Summit preparatory process. Since the objectives of the Social Summit coincided with the traditional priorities of ECLAC, the Latin American and Caribbean region had much to offer the Summit in terms of both analysis and practical

experience. As a result, he hoped the member Governments of the Commission would express their views on the topic at the twenty-fifth session, based on the guidelines formulated by CEGAN.

10. Turning to the other items on the agenda, he recalled that the Commission had been involved, for over five years, in an intensive process of joint reflection on how to meet the development challenges of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. In continuing that process, the Commission was now taking as its central theme the relationship between the region's linkages with the global economy and changing production patterns with social equity. In particular, it had organized its work around two mutually reinforcing processes: intraregional economic cooperation, and the ways in which the countries of the region interacted with the rest of the world. Both on those two enormously relevant and timely topics and on the other agenda items, CEGAN could launch a debate which would make an important contribution to reflection on the region's development in the 1990s and beyond the year 2000.

11. He concluded his statement by saying that the meeting was the first opportunity for the secretariat to receive comments on its latest proposals from experts sent by its member Governments. Thus, the meeting marked only the beginning of a process geared towards enriching the debate in all the countries of the region.

12. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Development and Reconstruction of Chile welcomed the participants to the nineteenth session of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN), a forum he described as important for the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. After thanking ECLAC for the excellence with which it fulfilled its role of guiding the region's economic and social development at a time of profound, widespread changes, he outlined the economic and social progress made by Chile over the last few years, thanks to overall growth and the Government's focusing of public expenditures on the most disadvantaged sectors, all of which had helped to consolidate democracy and stability. He then referred to the World Summit for Social Development, an initiative promoted by the Government of Chile which reflected its concern for combating poverty. The debates of CEGAN concerning a regional position for that Summit would be key to its outcome.

13. With respect to changing production patterns and linkages with the global economy, there were difficult but unavoidable tasks that would demand an overall and persevering effort to enhance competitiveness, conquer new markets and achieve growth, stability, better living conditions and greater social equity, based on social consensus and the search for effective instruments and policies. In that context, the concept of open regionalism proposed by ECLAC to intensify intraregional trade flows in the framework of increasingly open trade with the rest of the world seemed to be a suitable option, although not without difficulties, that would help modernize the structures of production and develop the specialization needed for better linkages with the global economy. The comparative advantages that such a process would generate would depend less on the availability of cheap labour and abundant natural resources than on the absorption of knowledge, technology and information, as well as on new quality standards and environmental protection. Those requirements would affect productivity levels, open the way for adopting modernizing processes and intensify demands for education, training, and research and development. Thus, the systemic nature of changing production patterns would allow for achieving the synergy needed to advance on all fronts.

14. With respect to forms of integration and linkages with the world economy, after mentioning different initiatives taken by Chile to coordinate its trade, financial and investment relations with the rest of the world, and the consequences of the encouraging conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), he

said that increasing and maintaining levels of interregional trade would require even more openness and a gradual harmonization of macroeconomic management. He concluded his statement by encouraging the representatives to centre their reflection on the search for a framework of joint action that would allow the region to project itself forcefully into the world economy and into the new international economic order on the horizon.

Adoption of the report

15. The representative of Colombia, in her capacity as Rapporteur of the meeting, submitted the draft report of the nineteenth session of CEGAN, giving a brief description of its content. She asked the delegations to submit any comments on the summaries of their own statements directly to the secretariat within 30 days.

16. The draft report was adopted by consensus.

Closing meeting

17. The representative of Mexico said that the summary of the debates reflected their richness and revealed a growing consensus on three topics: the need to make new free-trade and economic complementation agreements compatible with existing ones and with GATT rules; the belief that the new integration institutions and instruments should be adapted to the requirements of open regionalism; and the imperative of giving special attention to relatively less developed countries in the integration process. Those points of agreement represented important steps towards long-term goals. He praised the active participation of the delegates and the significant inputs provided by ECLAC and UNFPA; those efforts reflected a unanimous desire to continue to cooperate in actions that responded to the interests and needs of the countries of the region. The preliminary draft plan of action on population and development, for its part, represented the first stage of a task that should continue with measures at the national, regional and international levels to implement its provisions. Mexico was committed to assisting in that effort.

18. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean countries, said that he wished to join the representatives of Uruguay and Argentina in thanking the Chairman and the ECLAC secretariat, and that he was pleased to have participated in the meeting and in the debates on the documents, which reflected the opinions of all the countries.

19. The representative of UNFPA, after congratulating the participants and praising the work of the secretariat, emphasized the importance of the preliminary draft plan of action on population and development, which would be submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Cairo Conference. That achievement attested to the intensity of the participants' efforts during the meeting and the region-wide consensus on the set of government and institutional commitments it contained regarding the work to be done in the field of population and development in the coming years.

20. In his closing statement, the Executive Secretary of the Commission stressed the fact that ECLAC consisted of not only the secretariat, but also the member countries; its work was therefore the product of interaction between the two, which took the form of visits to countries, seminars and intergovernmental forums.

21. The current meeting had comprised two forums: the plenary meetings, at which ECLAC had begun the process of consultation on topics that were central to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean; and the discussions that had culminated in a prospective proposal in the field of population and development. In that fruitful effort, ECLAC had worked with one of its sister organizations, UNFPA, and was eager to continue to do so, with each agency working in its own sphere of action in the service of the member Governments, not only from a demographic perspective but also from the viewpoint of population and development. The participants had accomplished what they had set out to achieve: an initial debate on the substantive agenda items that would be considered at the Cartagena session and, in the area of population, the culmination of a process that had begun more than a year earlier. Lastly, he expressed the secretariat's satisfaction with the work completed, and thanked all the delegations and UNFPA for their participation. He was especially grateful for the Chairman's efforts, which constituted yet another manifestation of the support which ECLAC had always enjoyed from the host Government.

B. SUMMARY OF THE DEBATES

Economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

22. A representative of the secretariat, in presenting the document "Open regionalism in Latin America and the Caribbean", made a distinction between past and current economic integration processes in the region. The integration begun in the late 1950s had reflected State-led import-substitution policies in the global economic context prevailing at the time. The shift of that context towards one of greater globalization, internationalization and transnationalization had prompted new development styles in the region, characterized by openness, liberalization and privatization of national economies.

23. Those changes were reflected in the new integration agreements, which corresponded to what was known as "open regionalism"; the latter could be defined as the process that emerged through the reconciliation of the interdependence based on special preferential agreements with the interdependence created by market signals in the context of trade liberalization. He ended his statement by referring to the preferential features and modalities of the new form of integration, as analysed in the secretariat's document.

24. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC offered some reflections to complement the secretariat's presentation. He pointed out, first, that the issue was relevant for all the countries, since subregional integration processes were under way in Central America, the Caribbean Community, the Andean Group and the Southern Common Market, and new integration agreements were being concluded. It was essential to consider how to move forward in that area and also how to keep those processes from becoming sources of friction between countries owing to the contradictions that could arise when they took on multiple integration commitments. He underscored the potential of integration to help countries achieve international competitiveness. The term "open regionalism" used in the secretariat's note was not conventionally applied to the Asian experience, but was used to denote a combination of trade liberalization policies and preferences with respect to third countries. That fact in itself called for defining the type of integration that should be promoted —i.e., the features and characteristics of integration agreements— so that trade liberalization policies could be brought into line with preferential measures. Latin American integration could contribute to the region's linkages with the world economy or, in an alternative scenario, as a defence mechanism in the event of an increase in the latent protectionist

pressures in the international economy. He ended by saying that the secretariat did not claim to have all the answers, but rather, to provide guidelines for a renewed debate on these subjects.

25. The representative of Uruguay stressed the importance of intensifying the debate on integration at a time when that process was gathering great momentum. Uruguay was very pleased with its participation in MERCOSUR, a mechanism which was operating successfully. Other integration arrangements were also useful, and it was important for such efforts to succeed and eventually converge in the region.

26. The representative of Chile spoke first of the fruits of economic linkages between his country and the rest of the region through, inter alia, economic complementation agreements, tariff reductions and the promotion and protection of investment. Those linkages had resulted in significant increases in reciprocal trade flows over the past four years. The concept of open regionalism offered Chile a highly effective economic integration modality that would help it not only to deal with the current trend towards forming closed trading blocs, but also to maintain and strengthen its diversified trade with Asia, Europe and the American continent. The evolution of international trade into a free, transparent system was crucial to the future development of his country's exports.

27. Regarding the proposal to form a South American free trade area, he said that although Chile had not yet taken a position on the issue, LAIA was addressing the task of eliminating all restrictions on trade of goods and services in the region. Chile attached great importance to the Protocol relative to article 44 of the Montevideo Treaty, which was currently being prepared.

28. With respect to the type of preferences on which countries should currently focus, he mentioned the need to eliminate non-tariff barriers, facilitate trade in services and promote intraregional investment. For Chile, open regionalism was decisive in the present circumstances, since it allowed for both linkages with the international economy and faster progress in the regional context.

29. The representative of Mexico acknowledged the effort that had gone into the document presented by ECLAC and said that she agreed with its content. Mexico had already moved in that direction by promoting new agreements with countries or groups of countries in the region, covering such issues as services, the treatment of investments, intellectual property and Government procurement. One of Mexico's basic concerns in that regard was that such agreements should be homogeneous in terms of rules, and in line with the multilateral GATT rules. They should also provide for flexible transition mechanisms.

30. Agreements should also give special consideration to investment, particularly intraregional investment, and grant it national treatment. They should also be oriented towards strengthening infrastructure. She stressed the need to promote the transfer of technology and to establish flexible consultation mechanisms on macroeconomic policies.

31. Lastly, she said that regional agreements should be concluded in the context of more general policies on trade liberalization, deregulation and privatization, in order to link the region more efficiently to the global economy. With regard to new issues, such as the relationship between trade and the environment, there was a need to continue the debates being carried out in multilateral forums, to define positions in line with the interests of the countries of the region.

32. The representative of Argentina said that he agreed with the main lines of the ECLAC document. It would be important in future to discuss aspects of integration in further depth, in terms of the

coordination of macroeconomic policies, technical standards, safeguards and conflict resolution, and also to address issues relating to intra-industry and intra-firm trade, as the experience of MERCOSUR had shown. It would also be of interest to explore in more depth the links between integration on the one hand, and growth, competitiveness and attraction of capital, on the other.

33. Lastly, he cited the experience of the Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation as a positive, although modest, example of the possibility of giving impetus to integration through technical cooperation.

34. The representative of Brazil began her statement with some remarks about MERCOSUR and the expansion of trade among its members. MERCOSUR remained Brazil's top priority in the region and it was by building on the experience of MERCOSUR that links would be forged with other countries with a view to achieving the broadest possible integration of the Latin American region. That was the reasoning behind the proposal for a free trade area in South America, put forward by President Itamar Franco at the seventh meeting of the Rio Group, held in Santiago, Chile, in 1993. The proposal was based on the premise that MERCOSUR was not exclusionary and that its goal was to promote increased trade flows with other countries or groups of countries and, ultimately, to bring about the integration of the whole of South America. A South American free trade area would not conflict with the North American Free Trade Agreement and would, like it, be based on the economic advantages inherent in territorial contiguity. He recalled that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, at the eighth meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of LAIA, had already outlined the characteristics of a South American free trade area, which were: the lifting of tariffs and duties on basically all trade, with some exceptions, within a 10-year period starting on 1 January 1995; adherence to the basic rules of LAIA; differentiated rates of liberalization; and flexible bilateral or multilateral negotiating mechanisms.

35. The representative of Cuba said that his country's economy was experiencing difficulties caused by the sudden loss of and advantageous system of economic relations and the intensification of the United States economic blockade. Despite various kinds of domestic and external disequilibria, the Government had been able to cope with the situation by using a strategy based on the country's productive and scientific advances, avoiding a policy of "shock treatment". In order to offset the adverse effects, efforts had been made to enhance linkages with the global economy, to the point of amending the Constitution. In future, the Cuban economy, based on the socialist economic system, would continue to develop with the growing presence of foreign capital, in accordance with national interests.

36. The investment process that Cuba was promoting, in which a marked preference was being given to capital from the countries of the region, was concentrated on sectors with potential for rapid recovery, and on industries that produce export goods or generated foreign currency. Under the new conditions, a more important role was being assigned to fiscal, monetary and price policies that could help rehabilitate domestic finances.

37. The regional integration scheme was basically limited to the trade area. There was therefore a need to move ahead with industrial complementarity, joint ventures and other forms of intraregional cooperation.

38. The efforts made by ECLAC and other regional bodies to promote convergence of the different subregional agreements could result in benefits for all the countries of the region. In that regard, he stressed the importance of including a subprogramme on integration in the Commission's regular work programme.

39. The representative of Bolivia drew attention to the constraints being faced by Latin America, and to the need for a clear idea of the objectives it must pursue, in order to take rapid decisions that would contribute to integration. It was essential to have a convergence scheme covering the whole region, and Bolivia had always played an active role in that regard. Inputs for further reflection provided by external sources such as regional and subregional bodies not directly involved in integration issues were valuable. In that regard, the ECLAC document was a major contribution.

40. It was necessary to take immediate steps to create a free trade area in the region, harmonize policies and determine how to channel resources so that Latin America and the Caribbean could ably and efficiently enhance its linkages with the global economy. It would be a form of convergence that would lead to the creation of a Latin American common market.

41. Lastly, it would be helpful to define joint positions in order to determine the areas in which there was interest in and a need for joint action to deal with blocs and countries outside the region.

42. The representative of Paraguay said that his country was implementing policies on both trade liberalization and integration, through its participation in MERCOSUR and in agreements with LAIA countries.

43. Referring to the secretariat's document, he said he supported more favourable treatment for relatively less developed countries, although he wondered how financial aid could be provided to those countries in practice. He also questioned the feasibility of coordinating macroeconomic policies in the region. It would be desirable to determine whether trade liberalization in Latin America had done more to foster intraregional trade (as in Asia) or extraregional trade. In that regard, he noted the difficulty of gaining access to external markets, which remained relatively closed despite the liberalization undertaken in the Latin American countries.

44. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago, after expressing his appreciation for the presentation of the document, said that it had certain limitations. In his delegation's view, it touched only tangentially upon the specific features of integration and cooperation in the Caribbean. Furthermore, the document largely focused on the economic aspects of integration, whereas it did not give the same attention to such essential aspects as the political and cultural dimensions.

45. To illustrate those points, he referred briefly to an extensive list of recent cooperation activities within the Caribbean, and between that subregion and Latin American countries, among which the agreements signed with the Central American countries and with the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) were particularly relevant.

46. The representative of Suriname said that the document on open regionalism was outstanding and timely. In comparison with earlier periods during which his country's foreign relations had been concentrated on countries outside the region, the ongoing process of globalization and internationalization was encouraging Suriname to establish stronger ties with other countries in the region, and cooperation agreements had been signed with a number of countries. He attached special importance to the envisaged accession of his country to CARICOM in 1994. The ECLAC document could be of assistance to the national authorities in those new endeavours. He was particularly pleased with the emphasis in the document on equality of opportunities and the special attention given to relatively less developed, smaller countries. Finally, he requested the secretariat to give serious consideration to setting up mechanisms for collecting and processing of data on those countries, in order to facilitate the integration process.

47. The representative of Peru said that his delegation supported the ECLAC perspective on open regionalism because it coincided with his country's efforts towards integration; it offered a second best alternative in the event of adverse trends in international trade and was also compatible with the trade and macroeconomic policies by which Peru was attempting to internationalize its economy. He went on to place that perspective in a context characterized by three currents which should be not only complementary but also mutually reinforcing: increasing liberalization, with all that that implied for trade; efforts to improve international trade rules; and the strengthening of intraregional integration, which should be extended and deepened in areas such as capital flows.

48. With respect to the content of the document, he said it would be helpful to include or emphasize several points, such as phytosanitary measures, double taxation problems affecting investments, the role of the private sector in integration, and ways of dealing with the multiplicity of interrelated agreements and making the process more multilateral.

49. Lastly, he referred to Peru's position in the Andean integration scheme, where there was a problem of incompatibility between the common external tariff with various brackets, as had been proposed, and his country's trade policy.

50. The representative of Ecuador said that the secretariat's document was important because it provided a framework for interpreting the new integration process that was emerging spontaneously. LAIA should play a role in bringing about convergence between the new integration agreements; that view had inspired the debate under way on article 44 of the Montevideo Treaty.

51. He agreed with the representative of Argentina that horizontal cooperation projects were important as concrete steps towards integration. The problem of the economic liberalization of countries of the region while other blocs, such as the European Union, remained relatively closed deserved further analysis. He agreed with Paraguay on the need to help the relatively less developed countries to move ahead at the same rate as the others in the integration process. Lastly, like the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, he felt that integration should go beyond the strictly economic sphere, since it was not an end in itself but rather a means of enhancing peoples' well-being.

52. The representative of El Salvador briefly reviewed how the countries of the Central American Common Market (CACM) were currently working to remedy the deterioration of their integration process in earlier decades. She highlighted the rapid progress of the countries that made up the so-called "northern triangle" (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), to which Nicaragua had subsequently been added. She recalled that in 1993, the six Central American countries had signed the Protocol to the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration of 1960, which contemplated the establishment of a common market, including the free movement of capital and labour.

53. She ended by making two suggestions for the future work of the secretariat: first, that it should seek mechanisms to promote industrial complementarity among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and second, that it should study mechanisms to counteract any adverse effects which the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) might have on exports from Latin American countries not parties to that agreement.

54. The representative of Colombia congratulated ECLAC on the timeliness and quality of the document, which would serve as another instrument for further changing production patterns with social equity. She felt that it was important to continue adapting regional trade rules to multilateral rules, in

accordance with the results of the Uruguay Round of GATT. She highlighted as important and innovative points the mechanisms relating to payment systems, cooperation in the area of infrastructure and special treatment of the less developed countries in terms of countervailing measures. She drew attention to the risk that the current process of establishing isolated agreements would lead to a polarization of countries into two subregional blocs centred on NAFTA and MERCOSUR. Lastly, she said the document accurately reflected Colombia's experience with integration, and that the country's ultimate goal was hemispheric integration.

55. Commenting on the ECLAC document, the representative of Chile asked if open regionalism was a new strategic view or a conceptualization of the de facto processes that had been taking place in the region. Despite what some had thought at the outset, liberalization promoted integration, making it less costly. In that regard, further analysis of the impetus provided by autonomous forces of integration that were not part of formal integration schemes would be helpful. A new institutional framework would be needed to make such processes transparent and legally secure through conflict settlement procedures.

56. He also agreed that advantage should be taken of normative mechanisms available under GATT. Innovations should be geared to new areas in which no mechanisms existed or where more rapid progress was desirable. Lastly, he said that policy coordination, being costly, was recommendable only when necessary, as in the case of a customs union or common market but not a free trade zone.

57. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that his country's Government attached great importance to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and had expressed an interest in acceding to it, since trade between the United States and the countries of the subregion under the Caribbean Basin Initiative was decisive. The Dominican Republic had intensified its trade liberalization and implemented economic adjustment measures, while taking care to avoid creating social tensions, with a view to becoming a partner under NAFTA.

58. Other integration initiatives contemplated the establishment of an association of Caribbean States, which would include the countries of CARICOM, Central America and the Group of Three; the Dominican Republic was interested in serving as host country for that initiative. Lastly, in the area of economic liberalization, his Government had offered to open up trade in services and access to markets in the Uruguay Round. The Dominican Republic, he concluded, was on its way towards participating in what was being termed "open regionalism".

59. The representative of Mexico said that, just as the old integration model had reflected the development model existing at the time, current integration efforts were not guided by master plans, but rather by the need to take advantage of the changing opportunities that presented themselves. In line with that reasoning, the new forms of integration could not remain static, nor could they be theoretically defined a priori; they would require institutions and instruments to ensure compatibility between flexibility and legal certainty. Accordingly, norms should be adapted to reality, and not vice versa.

60. More specifically, regulations designed in the past should not hinder the course of current events. He also pointed to the need to make all the existing bilateral, trilateral or subregional agreements converge, so as to make it easier to administer them and move forward in the direction of a hemispheric trade area; there was no reason why membership in them, which was a requirement of open regionalism, should depend solely on the criterion of geographical contiguity. It was also important to address the topic systemically, bearing in mind not only trade but also investment, intellectual property, financial flows and productive development.

61. The representative of Bolivia, agreeing with the remarks made by the representatives of Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago, also saw the ECLAC document as a framework and a guideline for regional integration in support of changing production patterns with social equity. Alternatives needed to be explored for implementing it. His country advocated the convergence of the various existing schemes and a form of integration that included all countries. There were several ways of doing that, which Bolivia was prepared to accept: incorporating new members into LAIA, linking LAIA to other schemes, or developing a new institutional framework that would embrace all existing schemes. Regional bodies could also expand their areas of reciprocal competence and coordination in order to promote technological development and enhance competitiveness. Capital flows would be facilitated by the establishment of some kind of regional stock market. Mechanisms would also be needed to make worker mobility more transparent.

62. He noted that preferential treatment should not entail imposing restrictive measures on third parties, and that integration was a continuous process. The difference at present was that external circumstances had changed. In order for integration to advance without setbacks, it was necessary to include in the new schemes flexible mechanisms for incorporating new members and promoting technological development.

63. The representative of the secretariat said that the debate had been very fruitful and thanked the participants for their inputs into the ECLAC proposal on open regionalism. Their interest demonstrated the topic's relevance for Latin America, since it was clear that the new forms of integration were the counterpart of the region's future economic and social development. Another important point was the need for compatibility between multilateral rules and integration. With respect to the observations of the Caribbean representatives, he assured them that the secretariat would continue to incorporate background material on that subregion, although that exercise would not entail substantial changes in the central premises of the proposal. He ended by saying that the present debate represented the beginning of a process of revitalizing the region's thinking about integration.

The region's linkages with the global economy and changing production patterns with social equity (agenda item 4)

64. The secretariat presented the document "Latin America and the Caribbean: policies to improve linkages with the global economy". The presentation reviewed experiences of linkages with the global economy in the areas of trade and finance, and their repercussions for macroeconomic stability and development, from the standpoint of changing production patterns with social equity.

65. The main changes of recent years were summarized, with due consideration given to the diversity that existed among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Because of their relevance to linkages with the global economy, particular reference was made to achievements in the area of macroeconomic management, the expansion and diversification of exports, the recovery of external financial flows and the moderate recovery of economic growth.

66. It was noted that, despite the progress made, the growth in export volumes had yet to be accompanied by vigorous economic growth; neither had the massive inflow of capital (an average of US$ 60 billion a year in the latest biennium) been reflected in a comparable rise in the region's investment coefficient. On the basis of this analysis, the document focused on three economic policy areas that could help strengthen external linkages and enhance their contribution to changing production patterns with social equity.

67. Taking a systemic approach, the three complementary areas described were: i) comprehensive trade policies, including tariff, export-promotion and exchange rate policies, and regulations on unfair trade practices; ii) meso-economic policies (the environment of the firm, which included the creation or enhancement of technology markets, training, long-term financing and financing of small and medium-sized enterprises) and micro-economic policies (which facilitated the modernization of firms); and iii) sustainable macroeconomic policies and their interrelationship with international capital movements.

68. The presentation gave numerous examples of the interrelationship among those three areas of public policy and of how combining them properly could enhance their contribution to more dynamic changes in production patterns with greater social equity.

69. The representative of Argentina said that the document was consistent with his country's post-1989 economic policy with respect to linkages with the global economy. He emphasized the importance of the political aspect, since a democratic framework was a condition that allowed not only for changing production patterns with social equity, but also for the integral development of peoples and linkages of the countries with the international economy.

70. The representative of Mexico congratulated the ECLAC secretariat on the key contribution it had made with its proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, which had been further developed in specific areas such as the environment, education, population and now linkages with the global economy, and for carrying on its tradition of leadership that had begun with Raúl Prebisch and had been continued by others like Fernando Fajnzylber.

71. The challenge of the 1990s, after recessionary adjustment and in the face of growing inequalities, was to return to growth, but with social equity. In that regard, social equity was not only an ethical condition, but was also indispensable for the sustainability of development. Linkages with the global economy, previously seen in terms of obstacles to development and associated with the deterioration of the terms of trade, structural imbalances and external constraints, would now be perceived in terms of opportunities, as a way to recover export strength, increase capital inflows and intensify intraregional economic cooperation, prospects which had become even more encouraging in light of the outcome of the Uruguay Round of GATT.

72. He also mentioned two of the characteristics of current linkages: first, the low correlation between export dynamics and growth dynamics, which could be corrected by forging stronger links between the export sector and the rest of the production sectors and by policies to stimulate domestic demand, which had been eroded by adjustment processes; and second, the fact that imports grew relatively more quickly than exports, which should be viewed from a new perspective, seeing expenditures on imports as a way to enter foreign markets, promote export development and exploit comparative advantages.

73. With respect to the international scenario, he emphasized strengthening multilateralism, which would open new opportunities for trade negotiations. Referring to policies to promote exports and liberalization, which should be not be unilateral but rather by joint agreement, he said it was necessary to provide greater incentives to innovative export efforts. Exchange rate policy, which previously had emphasized stability to the point of creating an anti-export bias, should become an instrument of economic policy.

74. He then reported on Mexico's new foreign trade act, which included provisions to protect the country from unfair trade practices, a point to be considered in all trade agreements. In that regard, he

mentioned the new conditionalities and the problem of unfair competition, which were among the increasingly important issues treated in the secretariat's document, along with topics such as the interrelationship of social rights, environment and trade, which involved the danger of hidden protectionism. He concluded by underlining the importance of exploring the destabilizing effects of speculative short-term capital flows.

75. The representative of Colombia said that, in general terms, the considerations put forward in the document were consistent with the policy being implemented in her country under the economic modernization and internationalization programme launched in March 1990.

76. She was concerned, however, about the emphasis placed on selective export-promotion policies, since one of the underlying principles of the Colombian programme was to eliminate the discretionary use of the authorities' decision-making powers; in that regard, she emphasized the need to adopt horizontal policies to remedy market deficiencies.

77. The representative of Paraguay said that he agreed with the main points of the document, which were in line with his Government's efforts to integrate the country into the regional economy, through the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), and into the global economy, through its accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

78. Two aspects of the document had received special attention from his Government's technical specialists: i) the importance attached to policies for spreading the dynamism of exports to the rest of the economy (spillover); and ii) the relevance given to the design of instruments for promoting pioneer exports.

79. The representative of El Salvador said that since 1993 the countries of Central America had intensified their subregional integration efforts, with a new protocol that sought to eliminate tariffs in regional trade and to encourage the free movement of capital and manpower.

80. Steps had been taken in his country to stimulate exports, particularly non-traditional exports, which had expanded considerably. There was still a large trade gap, however, because imports had increased more sharply. The trade gap had been covered by family remittances from abroad, whose value was currently much greater than that of export earnings. The goal for the year 2000 was to reverse that situation, since remittances were expected to decline gradually.

81. To that end, an office of Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade had been established to stimulate exports and export-related investments. Export promotion had been neglected in Central America, in view of what had taken place in that subregion, and investments in productive enterprises such as maquiladoras, which created employment, had to be taken seriously into account, since they were the key to long-term stability.

82. The representative of Suriname said that the document did a very good job of analysing the general characteristics and problems of the region. Nevertheless, a disaggregation of the regional analysis by levels of development and restructuring in each country would be helpful. Some countries had virtually completed the restructuring process, others were advancing in the process and still others, like Suriname, were just beginning. It would have been useful if the document had taken the specific situation and problems of that third group of countries more fully into account.

83. The representative of Chile, after congratulating the secretariat on the detailed analyses presented in the document, said that he would comment on the document from the standpoint of Chile's efforts to internationalize its economy and to redirect its system of production towards exports. That process, which had begun earlier than in the rest of the region, had comprised three stages. The first had been characterized by a unilateral liberalization based on very high levels of protection and macroeconomic mismanagement and insufficient attention to the relationship between tariff reduction and the exchange rate. Those shortcomings had resulted in high unemployment and deindustrialization rates and had triggered the crisis of 1982-1983. After that crisis, a second stage had begun in 1984. Devaluation of the exchange rate had made exports profitable again, while leaving the import-substitution industry protected, and had had a positive impact on employment and output but had done little to increase productivity. Lastly, for the past four years, export dynamism and economic growth had been maintained by increasing productivity and investment rather than by using cheap labour and idle capacity. The growth rate had been sustained even in 1993, despite the problems that had affected Chile's four main exports that year. The larger deficit on the balance-of-payments current account had in part been consciously sought by economic policy in an attempt to avoid exchange rate appreciation, and had been financed by direct investments and long-term credits. In concluding his summary, he noted that Chile's experience —both its successes and its failures— illustrated many of the proposals contained in the document presented by the ECLAC secretariat.

84. Expanding on the issue of export development, he emphasized the importance of extending export-promotion policy to the services sector, which tended to be overlooked because the information media failed to grasp its full importance. With respect to productive development, he drew attention to the need to give greater importance to comprehensive policies for developing competition in the markets for goods, services and factors and for avoiding distortions caused by deficient regulation, which applied especially to the capital market.

85. He also said that there was an urgent need to remedy deficiencies in the area of infrastructure. Infrastructure development had been affected by the financial constraints imposed by the structural reform policies of the 1980s. He noted that Chile had adopted a strategy of involving the private sector in the provision of infrastructure and public works, which obviously entailed changes with respect to financing and the recovery of costs through charges.

86. Chile's experience also corroborated the observations made in the document concerning the three levels of intervention for regulating capital inflows, all of which had been applied. Although that had not prevented a revaluation of the peso, the real exchange rate had remained at a level which had made it possible to finance exports while maintaining stability and profitability.

87. He ended by referring to the contribution which the establishment of privately-administered pension funds had made to the development of the capital market. Although their functioning had had a high fiscal cost, the strict rules required by their financing had transformed them into professionalized, reliable institutional investors providing access to a stable and secure source of long-term funds. The country had also managed to secure a sustained flow of foreign investment since 1990, which had contributed to the internationalization of the economy, a process reflected in investments abroad by Chilean firms, especially in Argentina and Peru. Those investments were a new instrument for helping develop Chile's exports.

88. The representative of Brazil referred to the economic policies and concrete measures that her country had been implementing to strengthen its linkages with the global economy. In foreign trade, Brazil already had a fairly diversified share and was considered to be a global trader. She mentioned only

the most recent economic policies, which had been initiated in 1988 and further intensified in 1990, such as the reduction of the maximum export tariff from 105% to 35%, with an average tariff of 14%. She then discussed the stabilization programme adopted by the present Government, whose main target was inflation control, and its most salient features: budget reduction and the establishment of a Social Emergency Fund, to achieve fiscal balance; an increase in tax collection, including measures to prevent tax fraud; and a new indexing mechanism (URV), a first step towards the adoption of a new currency, the Real, in May 1994. In sum, the Government of Brazil was making a great effort to rehabilitate public finances, regularize the external debt and reduce the size of the State in order to achieve economic stabilization.

89. The representative of Ecuador joined others in expressing gratitude to the secretariat for the preparation of the document, although he regretted that there had not been enough time for his Government's various offices to study it properly.

90. He referred to the efforts which Ecuador's current national authorities were making to enhance the country's linkages with international markets, through trade liberalization and active participation in integration processes. Besides obstacles specific to the domestic market, there were external obstacles to that process. The final document needed to be very specific with regard to the exogenous factors that conditioned the efforts of countries of the region to establish linkages with the global economy.

91. The representative of Argentina proposed three areas in which the study presented by the secretariat could be expanded in the future: i) placing more emphasis on the barriers to access to developed country markets, especially with regard to subsidies and non-tariff barriers —particularly for agricultural products— identifying existing problems and ways of solving them; ii) analysing the best options for increasing international competitiveness, in the context of regional integration efforts; and iii) studying competitive advantages for attracting capital, an issue of particular importance to the Argentine Government, which had signed 30 investment-guarantee agreements in recent years to facilitate that process.

92. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said his delegation considered the document to be an excellent one. However, it would like to see two additional items included. First, a closer look at the efforts of individual Caribbean countries, and the Caribbean region as a whole, to help increase their linkages with Central America, Latin America and the rest of the world economy. Such a discussion would include international agreements (e.g., the Lomé conventions, the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the agreement between Canada and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and structural adjustment measures (e.g., lowering tariffs, opening markets, eliminating quotas and signing agreements on foreign investment and taxes). Second, the formulation of specific policies for speeding up and facilitating the process of improving linkages with the world economy. Smaller countries with fewer resources, especially Caribbean countries, would especially appreciate that kind of assistance from ECLAC.

93. The representative of Mexico said that he wished to add to his previous remarks some observations about the process of expanding Mexico's linkages with the global economy, which had begun in 1984-1985. He emphasized two basic aspects: the trade liberalization process and international trade negotiations.

94. With respect to the first, he mentioned the programme of drastically reducing tariffs and reducing non-tariff barriers, which had produced a much more open economy in his country, thereby improving its linkages with the global economy.

95. Second, the programme of trade negotiations, under way since the late 1980s with the twofold objective of opening new markets and establishing clear and permanent rules on trade and investment, had resulted in the signing of various agreements. He referred in particular to the economic complementarity agreement with Chile, which included trade rules and reciprocal tariff preferences; the establishment of a free trade area with the United States and Canada, which included specific clauses on services and other additional clauses on unfair trade practices, safeguard measures, mobility of persons, and intellectual property; the forthcoming agreement with Colombia and Venezuela; and the advanced state of negotiations with Costa Rica and Bolivia.

96. That entire process had entailed major administrative efforts in the trade area, including modernization of customs administration.

97. Lastly, the whole process had made it possible to substantially increase the weight of non-petroleum exports while considerably expanding imports.

98. The representative of Bolivia praised ECLAC for the quality of the document, which, like earlier studies, formulated basic concepts with a view to defining clear areas of action and proposed an integrated approach to the problems affecting the countries of the region, while recognizing the diversity of their economies. In that regard, he said that it would be useful to add to the document a selection of common problem areas.

99. In the case of Bolivia, innovations had taken very full account of the principle of solidarity with Latin America, which its policies had been designed to promote, even within the context of liberalization that had accompanied them. The liberalization of the Bolivian economy, especially in the trade area, was reflected in the country's participation in GATT and in various bilateral and multilateral agreements (Cartagena Agreement, MERCOSUR, and others). Although Bolivia had yet to achieve spectacular results, the advances made in the capitalization process were expected to attract external investments soon.

100. The country's social policies, which were guided by the principle of social equity, were radically important for achieving substantive and sustainable economic development. In conclusion, he hoped that ECLAC would focus on specific national cases in order to guide countries' action, since Latin America's linkages with the global economy should be the object of carefully formulated policies.

101. The representative of Peru said that the ideas put forward in the document drew on current experiences, such as that of South-East Asia, to demonstrate the need for increased international competitiveness. In his own country, after the profound crisis of the 1980s, an economic adjustment and restructuring programme had been implemented in 1990 with the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In trade, the current account had been liberalized by means of a drastic tariff reduction and the elimination of non-tariff barriers. The capital account and the money market had also been deregulated, as had the interest rate and the allocation of financial resources. The legislation on foreign investment had been amended extensively, so that capital could now enter the country freely, profits, dividends and royalties could be remitted, and no distinction was made between national and foreign investors. The State had been restructured and, as a result, all public corporations had been privatized. Lastly, he suggested that the ECLAC document should study Peru's experience in greater depth.

102. The representative of the secretariat thanked the participants for their positive comments and for their suggestions on aspects that would enrich the document, of which he had taken due note.

World Summit for Social Development (agenda item 5)

103. In introducing the note prepared by ECLAC as a contribution to preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, the secretariat said that in Latin America and the Caribbean, preparations for the Summit were being considered in a context characterized by great hopes and also by uncertainty, as a result of serious conflicts of various kinds and a marked duality at the international level. He then referred to the three core issues chosen by the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit, which would serve as a basis for formulating guidelines for proposing specifically regional action. With respect to the first issue, the enhancement of social integration, he emphasized the need to achieve a broad consensus that would lead to the adoption of shared standards, codes of ethics and values, in order to strengthen democracy and citizen participation at all levels of decision-making. It was particularly important, in that regard, to generate increasing equality of opportunities for all the groups in society, which meant that the educational system must to be reformed and key health and nutrition programmes must be carried out.

104. With respect to the reduction of poverty, the second issue to be addressed by the Summit, he emphasized the fundamental importance of sustained economic growth, which required the formulation of compensatory policies targeting sectors living in extreme poverty and those that did not benefit from the expansion of employment and from wage increases. In view of its essential role in that process, the State must be given the necessary capacity to evaluate the national situation properly and allocate resources to social programmes for the provision of public services.

105. The third issue to be addressed by the Summit was the expansion of productive employment, a process that must be based on a set of policies designed to maintain high levels of capital formation, promote productive and technological development, increase investment in human resources, create new linkages between wages and productivity and promote cultural changes in the relationship between employers and employees. In that area as in the other two, the opportunities for regional and international cooperation were considerable and could contribute to progress towards achieving the objectives of growth and social equity simultaneously.

106. The representative of Cuba recalled that his country had always actively supported the preparatory work for the Social Summit, since it attached special importance to the issues that the Summit would address. After congratulating the secretariat on its presentation on the subject, he said that certain expressions in the note warranted further reflection. Specifically, the statement in paragraph 2 that a source of tension has "vanished" with the end of the cold war did not apply to Cuba, for which the principal source of tension in its international relations still existed. Regarding the reference to the "collapse of a number of utopian experiments" in paragraph 3, he pointed out that some countries continued to implement their own national agendas, which were sometimes unduly termed "Utopian" by other countries. Lastly, he asked whether it was envisaged that the current debate would influence the final version of the document in question.

107. The secretariat, responding to the concern raised by the delegation of Cuba, said that the document reflected the secretariat's viewpoint and that the purpose of the CEGAN meeting was to hear Governments' views. The intention was that the document should reach the technical stage of the Cartagena meeting in a form that reflected a collective position on the issue.

108. The delegation of Uruguay, after commending the secretariat on its excellent presentation, said that Uruguay had supported the preparatory activities for the World Summit. It was important that the item be considered in CEGAN, and the delegation of Uruguay would comment on it later in greater depth.

109. The representative of El Salvador recalled the recent meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit, held in New York, which had issued a declaration concerning a plan of action and two final documents. It had been difficult to focus on problems more specific to the region in the declaration and documents, since 77 countries in all had participated in the meeting. That explained the importance of the present meeting in addressing problems specific to Latin America and the Caribbean which were not necessarily shared by the rest of the world, making it possible to move towards a regional position which reflected the specific characteristics of the region more fully.

110. The representative of Jamaica said that the holding of the Social Summit was an important step, given the current context of the social impact of structural adjustment. With respect to the secretariat's report, he said that a more in-depth analysis was needed of the different facets of poverty in the region, with specific reference to subregional variations in its manifestations.

111. The representative of Mexico said that the contributions of the present debate, together with those of other forums, would help to present to the Summit a shared view of social development.

112. He was in complete agreement with many elements of the document, such as the integrated approach to development and changing production patterns with social equity. However, other elements needed to be dealt with in more depth: more attention should be paid to the national efforts already under way and how they could complement one another through international cooperation.

113. Specific national and subregional characteristics should not be lost sight of when dealing with poverty. The policy response would be more effective if it focused on specific experiences within countries, using them as a basis for then formulating more general policies.

114. The representative of the British Virgin Islands congratulated the secretariat on its excellent note, which addressed important issues. In the case of the Caribbean countries, however, more attention needed to be paid to the wide diversity of national circumstances that existed even within the subregion. More specifically, many island nations faced problems arising from the fact that their territories were separated from each other by sea. It was also important in those countries to analyse the impact of international migrations on social well-being. The document, in sum, was a good beginning but needed some fine-tuning. His country considered the upcoming World Summit to be timely and, despite its special status as one of the non-self-governing Caribbean nations, hoped to be able to participate in the Summit. To that end, his country would be very grateful if the member governments of ECLAC would recommend, at their forthcoming session that the non-self-governing countries of the Caribbean be invited to participate in the Copenhagen Summit, as they had done in similar conferences on other issues.

115. The representative of Suriname said that one of the causes of poverty not mentioned on page 16 of the note was the inability of the State to redistribute existing wealth. Obviously, not all members of society had become poorer in recent years, for many wealthy people had even increased their assets and earnings. In that context, the inability of most governments to, for example, generate tax revenues that would help combat poverty was clear. He was aware that the issue was a sensitive one, but believed it was prudent and appropriate to include it among the fundamental causes of poverty that were analysed in the document and would be discussed at the Summit.

116. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that the document provided a good overall summary of the core issues involved in poverty and social development. He then drew attention to some paragraphs that emphasized the fact that the globalization of the world economy and rapid technological progress had yet to alleviate profound inequalities, even in industrialized societies. That presented the great challenge of finding innovative approaches to dealing with the problems of poverty and social integration in the current international economic context. He asked that more emphasis be placed on the issue of the external debt, which in several cases was still causing a huge transfer of resources that could be used to alleviate social problems.

117. He agreed that most countries were recovering their per capita output levels of the early 1980s; however, that level of output tended to be generated with lower levels of employment and its impact on the population's well-being, at least in the short term, was limited by the demands of structural adjustment policies.

118. He supported the emphasis placed by the secretariat on educational reform and training policies as ways of developing competitiveness. In many cases, combining growth with employment was a matter of having training policies that upgraded the skills of unemployed workers.

119. He also emphasized the importance of the migration of skilled workers, which was a serious problem for the economies of the Caribbean since it constituted a form of decapitalization. As a result, the question of how to retain the skilled workforce had to be addressed.

120. He expressed concern that the paragraphs on the financing of housing and sanitation for the lowest income strata alluded to prior savings by users; since such sectors were very often unable to save, those proposals would have to be rethought.

121. He had doubts about the feasibility of obtaining information on the level and targeting of social spending on an efficient and timely basis. It would be risky, therefore, for United Nations agencies to establish programmes that assumed that such information would be available.

122. The representative of Jamaica noted that paragraph 116 of the secretariat document on the Social Summit mentioned family planning programmes and other related aspects in a section on internal migrations. She felt that those issues should be dealt with separately.

123. The representative of Mexico proposed defining the contribution of ECLAC to the World Summit: it should begin with a diagnostic study of the problems involved in social development and poverty in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with an integrated treatment of two areas. The first would be issue-oriented, an aspect that was well treated in the secretariat's document, ranging from macroeconomic policies to transitory compensation programmes, although indigenous and local communities should also be included; and the second, institutional, in order to take up the tasks flowing from the World Summit from the perspective of the United Nations and coordinate them with regional and national bodies.

124. Two outputs were expected from the World Summit in Copenhagen: a political declaration containing principles for regulating the action of the State and the international community, and a plan of action that would propose concrete policy targets to Governments and United Nations agencies.

125. He ended his statement by pointing out that it would be helpful if ECLAC offered support to member countries for setting up national committees and a liaison network among them that would allow for an exchange of views and a further refinement of the stated objectives of the World Summit.

126. The representative of El Salvador said that representatives of her country had participated in a meeting of experts on poverty alleviation, held at Geneva, at which participants had analysed the same issues as were to be discussed at the Social Summit; the results of that meeting could therefore be a substantive input for the debates of CEGAN.

127. The representative of Bolivia, after congratulating ECLAC on the initiative of including the topic of the World Summit on the agenda, said that his country was among those that suffered most from poverty and had therefore recently launched a far-reaching reform to address problems of human and social development; those considerations guided the country's economic and development policies. Since countries showed both many similarities and marked differences in that area, it was necessary to design specific measures, in addition to seeking a common denominator for the more severe problems.

128. In that process, it was important to define priorities and spheres of action that highlighted critical aspects, with a view to designing a set of assessable policy actions, programmes and projects aimed at meeting intermediate and final goals in the areas of education, health, housing, environment and development of human capital.

129. Bolivia, for its part, had established a Ministry of Human Development and various departments whose areas of competence were linked together by common focuses of action, such as rural development and popular participation. The latter was considered strategic for promoting human development, because it turned target groups into active participants in identifying and solving their own problems.

130. Lastly, he proposed that technical groups be set up to exchange experiences and design and evaluate action programmes and projects for improving social development indicators.

131. The representative of Peru said that although it would be useful for CEGAN to design a concrete plan of action at the meeting, as proposed by another delegation, lack of time and the absence of some delegations that were participating in the Working Group on Population made that difficult. Moreover, proposals for the Social Summit were being discussed in a number of different forums and the coherence of each country's position had to be maintained.

132. The secretariat's document proposed a valuable conceptual framework, with innovative viewpoints and premises that demanded attention, such as the denial of the idea that economic growth automatically gave rise to social equity, the proposal that the objectives of growth and equity should be achieved simultaneously and the breakdown of the dichotomy between the State and the market. Social development must be conceived as something more than the elimination of poverty and must include aspects such as improved quality of life, access to social services, social integration and cohesion within the family.

133. The representative of Uruguay said that CEGAN should not interfere with, but rather complement, the work which national delegations were doing in preparation for the Summit. In his view, it was performing that function fully by promoting a debate on the views contained in the secretariat note, making it unnecessary at the current stage to move ahead with the drafting of a more detailed plan of action.

134. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC explained that when summit meetings were scheduled on topics related to any aspect of social development (population, women, poverty), a preparatory forum was usually held to allow the countries of the region to air their views. In the current case, the secretariat had opted instead to gather opinions directly during the session, for three reasons: first, to avoid duplication, considering the many meetings held on the subject of poverty; second, because of the difficulty of identifying the national actors in charge of the issue, who worked in a variety of ministries; and third, for financial reasons.

135. In those circumstances, ECLAC had decided to adopt, at its forthcoming session, a resolution containing the region's views on the aspirations of Latin America and the Caribbean in the social field. Consequently, CEGAN was not expected to produce a draft resolution, but rather to discuss the issue and perhaps draw up a list of considerations that would facilitate the preparation of the draft resolution during the technical stage of the ECLAC session in Cartagena.

136. The representative of Mexico said that he agreed with the premises of the document on the relationship between economic policy and social policy and that they applied to his country's experience. Now that public finances were on a sounder footing, the country had been able to redirect part of its public budget towards social spending, providing the latter with domestic funding on a more permanent basis. He also supported the proposal that compensatory policies should be linked to access-giving policies, since it highlighted the need to address structural issues such as State reform and the strengthening of social organizations, both of which were closely related to the challenges of social development. He also stressed the need to provide comprehensive support for productive development and to stimulate better inter-agency coordination among social policy bodies.

137. With respect to indigenous groups, he said that the document should address the fact that each community had its own dynamic.

138. He then noted the importance of setting up an information network, which had already been discussed in the seminars and workshops on poverty reduction attended by officials directly responsible for social funds and programmes, at which agreements had been reached on the subject.

139. The issues of employment, training, wages and productivity had emerged as conditioning factors of development. It was important to consider those issues in the context of liberalization, promotion of competitiveness and restructuring of the production process. The modernization of the labour market should be supported by policies that improved intermediation in that area, fostered social consensus for settling differences and promoted active employment policies in which education, training and productivity were considered basic elements of labour policy.

140. The representative of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) thanked the secretariat for its invitation to participate in the meeting and reported on the activities carried out and planned by the System's Permanent Secretariat, pursuant to the mandates received at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions. Those activities included meetings of experts and studies on such topics as adjustment and social development; financing and efficiency of social spending; the relationship among employment, competitiveness and international trade; State reform; and social conditions for competitiveness, and had been carried out in collaboration with ECLAC and other international agencies. Lastly, he proposed that the Inter-agency Group established in 1991 should be reactivated, so that progress could be made in the inter-agency coordination required for the Social Summit.

141. The representative of Peru said that his country shared the systemic approach taken by the document, and suggested that, in the interest of that approach, the issue of the external environment, which included international trade, migration and, in particular, international technical and financial cooperation, should be developed further. He also proposed that people's active participation in processes of changing production patterns with social equity should be considered.

142. In addition to the causes of poverty noted in the document (decline in wages and increase in low-productivity jobs), he felt that other, equally important, conditioning factors of poverty should be included, such as ethnic or institutional factors or those related to social integration.

143. After highlighting the importance of the CEGAN meeting, the representative of Ecuador said that the note by the secretariat on the Social Summit contained a satisfactory diagnosis of the regional situation. However, the secretariat should not confine itself to diagnoses, but should also formulate proposals that reflected the specific features of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. It was also necessary to propose viable, concrete measures that required the countries to commit themselves to achieving specific objectives, inter alia, in the areas of employment, training, non-discriminatory treatment and income distribution.

144. The representative of El Salvador stressed the importance of sharing experiences, since that exercise helped ensure that the specific situation of each country in the region was duly considered. In that regard, she spoke of the experience of Salvadorian society following the end of the war and the signing of the Peace Agreement, which gave priority to economic restructuring and the consolidation of stability.

145. With the help of various international agencies, social compensation programmes had been launched in the territories that had been embroiled in the armed conflict. Moreover, a Social Investment Fund had been set up to provide assistance for the execution of small-scale infrastructure projects in the education and health sectors and for the provision of drinking water, sewage systems and electricity. Lastly, she referred to the "Municipalities in Action" programme, which was aimed at expanding the sphere of competence of local communities, particularly as regards the local priorities which social spending should target.

146. The representative of the ECLAC secretariat, after assuring the delegates that due note had been taken of their guidelines and suggestions, proposed that the meeting should be seen as part of the process of generating a joint position on the Social Summit. On that basis and taking delegates' inputs duly into account, the secretariat could draw up a list of the guidelines that arose from the debate, submit it to the delegations for consideration and take it to the plenary meeting for adoption as a set of general guidelines for use by the secretariat in its work concerning the forthcoming session.

147. To that end, the plenary meeting took note of the document "Guidelines for a draft resolution on the World Summit for Social Development to be submitted to the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC", prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the suggestions made during the debate on the topic, together with observations made by a number of delegations. In view of its indicative nature, it was not formally debated; the participants decided to include it, however, in the report.

148. The text of the document is as follows:

> "In the light of the debates at its nineteenth session, the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN) instructed the ECLAC secretariat to prepare a text that would serve as a starting

point for the deliberations to be held on the subject of the World Summit for Social Development during the technical phase of the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC, using the following guidelines:

1. Give decisive support to the preparation of the World Summit for Social Development, to be held at Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 1995.

2. Recognize that a series of major international meetings are taking place in preparation for that Summit and that their results, proposals and recommendations should be treated as significant inputs and necessary references for the work of the World Summit for Social Development.

3. Pay particular attention to the references made to the World Summit in the declarations adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Rio Group at the presidential summits held at Santiago, Chile, in October 1993 and at Brasilia in March 1994.

4. Emphasize the consensus that exists on the substantive approach contained in the note entitled "The Social Summit: a view from Latin America and the Caribbean", prepared by the ECLAC secretariat, which states that it is essential to advance towards the objectives of growth and social equity simultaneously, by means of an integrated approach which gives priority, on the one hand, to economic policies that foster both growth and equity, while emphasizing, on the other hand, the effects of social policy on productivity and efficiency.

5. Taking into account the elements approved by the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit at its first session, held from 31 January to 11 February 1994 in New York, and in accordance with the three themes of the Summit —enhancing social integration, reducing poverty and expanding productive employment— prepare a series of considerations of particular relevance to Latin America and the Caribbean to be incorporated into the draft political declaration and plan of action that are expected to emanate from the Copenhagen meeting, including the following criteria and principles:

   a. In an international scenario marked by globalization, interdependence and rapid technological change, the objectives of growth, productive employment and equity are increasingly linked to the development of competitiveness in international markets and the full autonomy of the countries in designing their social policies in accordance with their own realities. Accordingly, the very nature of this scenario makes it necessary to take an approach that involves shared responsibility among all countries to achieve sustainable development with social justice. In particular, an open, transparent multilateral trade system has become an internal condition for making national advances in the areas targeted by the World Summit.

   b. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are arriving at the Summit with the political will to undertake commitments of cooperation for the benefit of their populations. They also have many mechanisms for integration, economic and technical cooperation and political consensus-building at the regional level, and for dialogue and cooperation with the rest of the world, which will enable them to realistically take on the commitments derived from the Summit.

c. The Latin American and Caribbean countries expect that the political declaration to be adopted at the Summit will contain two types of commitments:

- By Governments, to adopt general policy guidelines at the national level to improve the living conditions of their populations and to promote the active, responsible participation of all sectors of society in the achievement of social development objectives;

- By the international community, to carry out coordinated or collective actions of cooperation and resource allocation to facilitate the work of the State at the national level.

d. The countries of the region expect that the draft plan of action to be adopted at the Summit will contain concrete recommendations on feasible policy targets, so that each State will be able to achieve its national targets, and that the plan will include guidelines for the United Nations system to allow it to carry out, by making concerted efforts under an integrated approach, the actions of its various organs and agencies in the field of social development.

e. The integrated approach refers to both substantive issues and the institutional framework. The integrated approach underlines four elements —technical progress, productive employment at fair wages, investment in human resources and consensus-building— all of which come up repeatedly in the examination of the basic issues to be discussed at the World Summit for Social Development. In addition, redistributive measures targeted to the most disadvantaged groups will also have to be considered, since the incorporation of these groups into high-productivity sectors will take a long time.

f. With regard to the institutional framework, the plan of action should incorporate the most important conclusions of the various international meetings, and on that basis make every effort to formulate goals, strategies and mechanisms to fulfil the agreed commitments with regard to cooperation for development. Therefore, the plan should also set the pattern to be followed in this area by the restructuring of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, introducing criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and greater rationality in the use of resources.

6. Social integration

a. In Latin America and the Caribbean, large sectors of the population are excluded from social progress because of their age, ethnic, cultural or social characteristics, location or gender. Accordingly, a primary concern should be to create more equality of opportunity for all groups in society; in particular, there is a need to identify the most marginalized groups, especially those in extremely vulnerable situations, and promote their social integration.

b. Children should receive the best possible attention conducive to their overall development, and care should be taken that they do not become victims of specially difficult circumstances because of their vulnerability. Young people must be given greater socio-cultural opportunities appropriate to their age and must also be targeted by specific employment policies. Measures must also be taken to ensure equality of economic, political and social opportunities between men and women. For indigenous people, there must be policies which recognize and respect their identity and establish channels to promote their participation in society on an equal footing. Lastly, the family, irrespective of its structure, must be restored to its proper place as a key environment for the promotion of social integration.

c. State action should be redefined, opening up more opportunities for citizen participation, reinforcing social organization, promoting new mechanisms and procedures for social consensus-building and concentrating efforts on priority social development areas. By finding the proper balance between economic growth and social development, conditions conducive to the advance of political democracy are strengthened. This also requires promoting the organization and participation, with shared responsibility, of all social groups, the private sector and non-governmental organizations and the decentralization of the decision-making process.

d. At the regional and international level, cooperation in social integration should include the preparation of an inventory of successful experiences in the social policy field. Innovative mechanisms to identify, select, design, execute and evaluate projects should also be established.

7. Alleviation of poverty

a. In a number of forums, the Latin American and Caribbean countries have shared their experiences in combating poverty, which has provided them with a great reserve of diagnostic studies, recommendations and action programmes in this field. To make full use of this reserve, a regional intergovernmental information network on anti-poverty policies should be set up for exchanging experiences and background information. This exchange could permit, first, the adoption of reliable systems for measuring poverty, and then the establishment of a system for responding to requests for information to facilitate the implementation of such policies, particularly for targeting social spending and increasing the productivity of the poor.

b. Poverty alleviation is an objective which all the countries of the region are making efforts to meet. The prime factor in this endeavour is sustained economic growth, which opens up more opportunities for the population to participate in productive activities and improve their income and social well-being. Together with structural adjustment policies, selective and temporary compensatory policies should be developed for the extremely poor sectors.

c. The State has an indispensable role to play in overcoming poverty; in particular, it should implement social policies that are targeted to the most marginalized groups and use its resources more efficiently. The fact remains, however, that social welfare policies cushion the negative effects of poverty only temporarily, and do not eradicate poverty itself. For this reason, the groundwork should be laid for the various target populations to participate in productive activities, by promoting economically feasible projects and providing credits, training, technical assistance, market information, etc., in a favourable economic and legal environment.

d. Regional and international cooperation in overcoming and alleviating poverty should take into account the need to create external financing mechanisms that complement domestic efforts to increase the volume and quality of investments benefiting the poorest sectors.

8. Expansion of productive employment

a. The expansion of productive employment is a key to promoting growth with equity in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, an economic climate conducive to creating increasingly productive jobs is needed. Policies could be adopted in relation to fostering and developing sustained investment to maintain high levels of capital formation; to promoting production and technology; to increasing investment in human resources; to creating new linkages between wages and productivity (that take into account both the output and stability of workers); and to cultural changes in the relationship between employers and workers, in accordance with modern ways of organizing production.

b. Labour policy should meet the challenges of reversing the effects of the crisis and adjustment, dealing with the increase in the working-age population, retraining the workforce on the basis of economic modernization and promoting the entry of new workers in accordance with the needs of the production process and the aptitudes and abilities of the workers themselves in a framework of consensus-building and with full respect for labour rights. It will be particularly important to create adjustment mechanisms which respond to the inevitability of job mobility by promoting policies for readaptation, retraining and upgrading of skills of the labour force.

c. With respect to productive employment, the opportunities for regional and international cooperation are numerous and should focus on joint efforts to link the development of trade and competitiveness to workers' rights. Nevertheless, countries should not be allowed to use mechanisms for preventing unfair labour practices as barriers to international trade, particularly against the developing countries.

d. One area that is very important because of the magnitude of the phenomenon is raising the productivity of the informal sector, which should form part of the overall development strategy. In this regard, attention should be paid to rural areas; the need for training and infrastructure improvement; quality of work in the informal sector; and health and safety conditions. In this regard, it is necessary to prohibit forced labour and child labour; reject discrimination and restrictions on freedom of association and freedom to negotiate, which should be guaranteed in charters and agreements; maintain existing mechanisms in the framework of the International Labour Organization; and introduce social provisions in the context of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and integration arrangements.

9. Migration

The creation of a general coordination mechanism should be promoted, which would serve as a frame of reference in establishing agreements on international labour mobility, so as to ensure that migration policies are compatible with the protection of workers' human rights.

10. Preparations for the World Summit for Social Development

The draft resolution should include directives on preparations for, participation in and follow-up to the Summit in the region."

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development (agenda item 6)

149. A Working Group was formed to consider the preliminary draft Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development prepared by the ECLAC secretariat in collaboration with UNFPA and in consultation with the member and associate member countries, and in accordance with the guidelines of the Presiding Officers of CEGAN.

150. As the Working Group began its deliberations, the Chairman described the procedure followed in elaborating the Regional Plan of Action, pursuant to the directives contained in resolution 1 of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development. He alluded to the remaining stages of the process, which should be carried out in the short and medium term. He also recalled the basic purposes of the Plan: to facilitate the exchange of experiences among the countries of the region in the formulation and application of population policies and programmes; to identify priorities and useful mechanisms for interregional technical cooperation; to stimulate political, technical and financial support; and to favour relations between the region and the rest of the world.

151. In enumerating the objectives of each chapter of the Plan, he said that the Plan would help to link the guidelines derived from the global agreement that would be adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo with the actions which each country would autonomously decide to take at the national level. Thus, chapter I put forward the basic principles underlying the Plan, and chapter II offered a diagnosis of the progress made since the World Population Conference at Bucharest and identified the most pressing needs for the future. The principles, objectives, goals and recommendations for action contained in chapter III were derived from the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus and would be further enriched following the Cairo Conference. He felt that chapter IV, on regional actions, was the most important because it established the specific nature of the Plan and made it an important multinational mechanism for the convergence of efforts and the rationalization of resources. Chapter IV, complemented by the sections that identified mechanisms for coordinating the execution, follow-up and financing of actions, would help the region to implement the recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action effectively.

152. Lastly, he praised the effective and timely work of CELADE in the preparation and correction of the drafts that had been analysed thus far, as well as the valuable contribution of UNFPA in convening the various meetings and in the technical revision of the documents.

153. The Director of CELADE, in his capacity as Secretary of the Working Group, referred to the process of preparing the preliminary draft Plan, drawing attention to the direct guidance received from countries during the various meetings, including the Open Meeting of the Presiding Officers of CEGAN and the subregional meetings. He also emphasized the cooperation of UNFPA, which had participated in all of those meetings and had collaborated directly at various stages of the process.

154. The Chairman reported that three working documents were available: i) the second version of the preliminary draft of the Regional Latin American and Caribbean Plan of Action on Population and Development (LC/L.811(CEG.19/6), January 1994), prepared after the four subregional consultative meetings and distributed to CEGAN by the established deadline; ii) the report of the open meeting of the Presiding Officers of CEGAN (Informe de la reunión de trabajo de la Mesa Directiva Ampliada del Comité de Expertos de Alto Nivel (CEGAN)), containing the observations made at the meeting in Buenos Aires on the second version of the preliminary draft Plan, which had been distributed as a conference

room paper; iii) the second version of the preliminary draft mentioned in i), but also including the observations made at the Buenos Aires meeting, which appeared in boldface type, identifying the delegations that had made them (also distributed as a conference room paper).

155. One delegation expressed the concern of the representatives of the Caribbean countries about not having had an opportunity to participate in the drafting of the documents that would be considered by the Working Group.

156. As the participants began their analysis of chapter IV, on regional actions, the Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Division of UNFPA made a statement. She emphasized the merits of the initiative of elaborating a Regional Plan of Action, which, as a reflection of the Consensus reached by the Latin American and Caribbean countries at the Regional Conference in Mexico, would constitute an input for the consideration of issues and problems of population and development, and a mechanism for consensus-building among the countries on proposed actions in that field. However, she was concerned about the broad scope of the regional actions identified in the preliminary draft Plan, which would require countries to shoulder complex responsibilities in the areas of coordination, follow-up and review. Although CELADE, as part of the secretariat, had an impressive record of training, research and technical consultancy activities in the field of population and development and had made effective contributions to the process of preparing the Plan, it had suffered a cutback in resources in recent years, which could limit its capacity for action. Given those conditions, the commitments contained in the Plan would require the national delegates to reflect carefully on their expectations as to the viability of the proposed actions.

157. The Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Division of UNFPA gave a detailed report on the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo in September 1994. She referred in particular to the mechanisms for participating in the various stages, at the national, regional and global levels. She also referred to the drafting of the Conference Programme of Action, an outline of which would be considered at the third session of the Preparatory Committee to be held in April in New York.

158. After lengthy deliberations, the Working Group adopted the draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, which appears in the annex to this report.

C. RESOLUTION

159. The Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN) adopted the following resolution at its nineteenth session:

PROPOSAL ON THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN),

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 47/176 and 48/186 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/91, 1991/93, 1992/37 and 1993/4 on the International Conference on Population and Development to be held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,

Recalling ECLAC resolution 527(XXIV) on the Commission's preparatory activities for the International Conference on Population and Development,

Taking into account the results of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 29 April to 4 May 1993), in particular its Resolution 1 which promoted the formulation of a regional plan of action on population and development and noted that the preliminary draft plan of action should be completed prior to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development and that, at a later stage, the draft plan of action would be enriched with the inputs of the International Conference,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, held at Mexico City,

Bearing in mind also that a detailed programme is needed for the consideration, adoption and implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development,

1. Recommends the adoption of the preliminary draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development as it appears in the annex to the final report of the nineteenth session of CEGAN;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to transmit the said document to:

i) the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development (New York, April 1994) for information;

ii) the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5 to 13 September 1994) for information;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to submit the preliminary draft Plan of Action and the initiative of establishing a special Sessional Committee on Population and Development to the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC (Cartagena, 20-27 April 1994) for its consideration;

4. Requests the Presiding Officers of CEGAN[1] to introduce the document to the three meetings mentioned above;

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[1] The Presiding Officers of the special Sessional Committee on Population and Development will take over these functions, once its establishment has been approved.

5. Requests the Presiding Officers of CEGAN[1] in the light of the consensuses reached at the Cairo Conference, to enrich the content of the document and to present it to CEGAN[2] at a plenary meeting;

6. Recommends to CEGAN[2] that it review the draft as revised by the Presiding Officers in order to submit it to the ECLAC Committee of the Whole in November 1994 in New York during the session of the General Assembly;

7. Requests the twenty-fifth session of ECLAC to authorize the subsequent meeting of the Committee of the Whole, in 1995, to consider and adopt the preliminary draft Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, pursuant to the recommendations of CEGAN,[2] or to establish an appropriate alternative adoption mechanism;

8. Requests the secretariat of ECLAC, in consultation with countries and organizations, to draw up a preliminary version of the 1995 programme for implementing the Plan of Action, as well as the corresponding budget, and to present it to the twenty-fifth session. That programme and corresponding budget should be considered at the CEGAN[2] meeting to be held next November.

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[2] This will apply to the special Sessional Committee on Population and Development, after its inception.

ANNEX

PRELIMINARY DRAFT LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

1. The United Nations World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974) and the World Population Plan of Action adopted at that meeting were milestones in the evolution of population issues at the global level. In the twenty years since then, the region has experienced sweeping changes. Chapter II of this document summarizes the changes in the region's population dynamics, as well as the progress made and the obstacles faced by the countries in their efforts to implement their population policies and to integrate demographic variables into their development policies and programmes.

2. The economic difficulties of recent years have highlighted the need to introduce changes in the areas of production and labour relations, so as to situate the region within the new international context, and to abandon simplistic dualities, such as those which oppose growth to equity, manufacturing to agriculture, domestic to foreign markets, planning to market dynamics, or the State to private agents. Overcoming the last of these dualities is especially important in order to broaden the area for cooperation between Governments, private sectors and non-governmental organizations.

3. The crisis of the 1980s exacerbated inequalities in terms of access to the fruits of development and thus increased the poverty of vast sectors of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean. In that regard, the Governments of the region have expressed, in various forums, their firm intention to integrate population issues more effectively into the development process, assigning priority to social concerns while simultaneously addressing the need for environmental sustainability, within a framework of democracy and participation so as to ensure full respect for individual rights, including reproductive rights.[1]

4. The objectives and goals derived from the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, described in chapter III of this document, constitute a desideratum for the region in relation to the links among population, development and the environment and to progress in ensuring respect for human rights and correcting the inequality of living conditions observed among different social and ethnic groups and geographic areas and between men and women.

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[1] In light of the guidelines and mandate established by the member Governments, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has adopted the concept of changing production patterns with social equity as the frame of reference and the linchpin of its analyses of development. In this regard, see the following texts: ECLAC, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns: An Integrated Approach (LC/G.1701/Rev.1-P), Santiago, Chile, 1992. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.II.G.5; ECLAC/CELADE, Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns (LC/G.1758/Rev.1-P; LC/DEM/G.131/Rev.1-Serie E, No. 37), Santiago, Chile, 1993. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.G.8.

5. On the premise that greater mutual support among the countries of the region will help achieve more solid progress towards the realization of those objectives and goals, the general purposes of this Plan are intended precisely to facilitate integration and the exchange of national experiences in the formulation and application of population policies and programmes, both recent and current, together with those which will emerge from the implementation of this Plan; to support the design of policies and programmes to harmonize each Latin American and Caribbean country's rate of population growth and territorial distribution with its economic and social development strategies; to encourage an understanding of population issues and of the usefulness of adopting population policies; to stimulate political, technical and financial support for national efforts in this area; to strengthen relations between the region and other developing and developed nations; to identify priorities for technical cooperation in this field and mechanisms for their implementation; to facilitate agreements among nations for the joint execution of activities to ensure the institutionalization of population policy and the development of instruments and highly trained professionals to implement them.[2]

B. REGIONAL ACTIONS UNDER THE PLAN AND NATIONAL ACTIONS

6. Chapter IV of this document offers an initial outline of actions that could help to fulfil the general objectives mentioned above. It should be noted that the regional actions described in chapter IV are not intended to achieve fully, by themselves, all the objectives proposed in chapter III. In fact, most of those objectives call for national action, and their fulfillment will depend on the measures taken by the competent national entities; thus, regional action can only be viewed as a complement to national efforts. Of the objectives presented in chapter III, only those whose achievement could probably be facilitated by joint action among countries are discussed in chapter IV.

7. It should be noted that the objectives and recommendations for action presented in chapter III relate primarily to the national level; basically, they are recommendations that apply to each of the countries of the region, in the collective view of all of them. Naturally, it is understood that each country will adapt them to its own circumstances when acting on them. Those national objectives will be pursued through initiatives which, by definition, are also national. Regional action, which is discussed in this Plan and presented in chapter IV, is intended to support those national activities. Thus, by reflecting the common denominator of national objectives, chapter III will also orient regional action.

8. The Regional Plan deals with regional activities that are meant to support or facilitate national action. National plans are coordinated and executed according to the sovereign decisions of the respective countries which, in pursuit of their objectives, may have recourse to international technical cooperation.

For that reason, this Plan does not include the execution of either national plans or national technical cooperation projects among its objectives.

9. In each case, regional initiatives will be executed by the most appropriate institution. In some cases, the task may be assigned to a specialized international organization; in others, to a national public agency, a non-governmental organization or a university. The entity chosen must be capable of organizing activities to benefit all or some of the countries of the region.

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[2] In this document, the term "policies and programmes" is used generically and may include strategies, plans, policies, programmes, projects and activities.

10. In order to increase this Plan's chances of success, chapter IV, section B, of this document describes mechanisms for adequate follow-up of the Plan's implementation and constant updating of its operation through the introduction of changes or new activities. Equally important for improving the chances of success is the design of funding mechanisms for regional, subregional and bilateral activities. That issue is addressed in chapter IV, section C.

C. BASIC PRINCIPLES REGARDING POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

11. The general objectives of population policies and programmes shall be pursued within a framework of absolute respect for the following basic principles:

i) The formulation and implementation of policies and programmes is a sovereign right of each nation.

ii) The rights of persons to determine their reproductive behaviour, place of residence and movement within national territories shall be fully respected. Strategies to achieve desirable demographic changes shall be based on freedom of decision with regard to individual behaviour and shall take due account of ethnocultural diversity.

iii) All elements of development strategy affect and are affected by population dynamics. For that reason, population policies and programmes should be multisectoral in nature and integrated into national socio-economic development policies at the global, sectoral and regional levels.

iv) Efforts shall be made to reduce the social inequity —and the demographic consequences thereof— found in the region as a whole and within many of the countries comprising it.

v) Actions shall always be aimed at increasing the life expectancy and improving the health of the population, independently of any other demographic consideration.

vi) Objectives and goals shall be consistent with the preservation and better use of national ecosystems. They shall therefore recognize that environmental degradation is a result of the irrationality of current development styles, as reflected in the predominance of inappropriate technologies and consumption patterns, mainly in the industrialized countries and the privileged minorities of the developing countries. It shall be recognized that population growth is not the principal determining factor in environmental degradation, since the interrelationships between the population and the environment depend on economic development strategies.

vii) Programmes and policies shall be designed and implemented on the basis of gender equity, so that they help to improve the status of women.

viii) The right of every individual to make free, responsible and informed decisions with respect to the number and spacing of his or her children shall be respected, regardless of each country's objectives concerning population growth.

ix) Programmes and policies shall be designed and implemented bearing in mind the protection of families, as well as the rights of their individual members.

12. Finally, it should be noted here that this Plan is intended to identify actions which will respond to the specific needs of Latin America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the global recommendations which may be adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).

II. CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SITUATION IN THE AREA OF POPULATION

13. This chapter offers a very brief summary of the population situation in the region and prospects for the future, within the context of economic and social development. A more detailed diagnosis, by subregions and groups of countries, including their specific characteristics and problems, can be found in other ECLAC documents, made available opportunely to the countries.[3]

A. POPULATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT

14. The population of Latin America and the Caribbean nearly tripled between 1950 and 1993, reaching 466 million persons. A sharp decrease in death rates, together with persistently high fertility rates, accelerated growth rates up to the mid-1960s. During that period, the economy of the region, stimulated by the process of substitution industrialization, experienced sustained expansion. Together with changes in the productive spheres and increases in the gross domestic product, social structures were rearticulated, to the benefit of the middle and salaried strata. That social mobility, accompanied by higher levels of education, occurred concomitantly with a very rapid process of urbanization, which involved significant population movement from the countryside to the cities. These factors promoted the transformation of values, including those related to reproductive behaviour. Consequently, the desired family size gradually diminished, an aspiration made possible through family planning and other strategies. Lower birth rates have led to a gradual deceleration of average annual natural growth rates, from 2.7%, between 1950 and 1960, to 2% during the 1980s.

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[3] ECLAC/CELADE, Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns (LC/G.1758/Rev.1-P; LC/DEM/G.131/Rev.1-Serie E, No. 37), Santiago, Chile, 1993, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.G.8; J. Chackiel and M. Villa, Latin America and the Caribbean: The dynamics of population and growth (DDR/1), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992; B. Boland, Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean: with special emphasis on adolescent fertility, international migration and population policy and development planning (DDR/2), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992.

15. Many of the economic and social advances achieved during the post-Second World War period in Latin America and the Caribbean have been overshadowed by the recession of the 1980s. Although the population grew at lower rates than in earlier decades, the real per capita product, in 1989, had fallen back to the level of 13 years previously. Diverse indicators point to the gravity of this recessive cycle, characterized by severe macroeconomic imbalances and setbacks in the social area. Due to the postponement of investments, institutional deterioration and the lack of alternative models of attention, the quality of essential services —such as health care and education— suffered serious reverses. Meanwhile, the recession meant higher unemployment and increased marginality in labour markets. Measures designed to soften the impact of the economic crisis had regressive effects on income distribution, their effects being felt most severely by workers and the middle strata. As a result, poverty increased; during the early 1980s, the rate of increase of the number of poor persons tripled the rate of increase of the total population. For the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, foreign debt and service payments constitute a heavy burden, inhibiting the allocation of resources for development and, especially, lowering the priority of social programmes to improve the quality of life of the population.

16. Although the demographic growth of the 1980s was less than that of earlier decades, as a result of the transfer of that higher previous growth, the cohorts of women in their fertile years increased and, in spite of lower fertility rates, the number of births continued to rise. Thus, the demand for social services also continued to rise; due to widespread failure in the supply of those services, service insufficiencies became very great. Analogously, the number of young persons entering their working years grew at higher rates than previously. The effects of demographic inertia, interrelated with recessive economic and social processes, have had negative repercussions on development and will continue to be felt in the coming years.

17. Given the diversity and depth of its impact, that "lost decade" strained the capacity of Governments to respond within that context of economic setbacks and their subsequent political difficulties; this relegated traditional planning schemes to secondary levels and weakened the position of the State as an agent of production. The severity of the crisis also exacerbated a series of social and economic imperfections endemic to the region. However, that harsh experience taught a number of lessons and, on that basis, the countries of the region have undertaken the search for new horizons. As part of that process, a strategic proposal for changing production patterns has taken shape, which, together with environmental sustainability, involves achieving greater social equity as an essential element, within a framework of democratic management styles. Population is an essential component of this proposal, both as the fundamental agent of the productive process and as recipient of the fruits of progress.

18. The sustained increase of the competitive capacity of Latin American and Caribbean economies is an essential condition for growth in today's world; this presupposes the systematic incorporation of technical progress into the productive process, creating more jobs and employing environmentally sustainable means. This task is unthinkable without significant investment in human resources; training of persons will increase the productivity of labour, generate genuine comparative advantages and increase the aggregate value of production. The qualitative improvement of human resources is a factor which will also help reduce poverty, by both favouring greater economic growth and offering greater opportunities for incorporation into the labour market for all sectors of the population, as long as, simultaneously, social policy to reduce the enduring inequalities in the societies of the region is strengthened. This presupposes assigning priority to quality of life, as well as to the training of human resources, which implies giving preferential treatment to education, health care and social security. In this sense, rapid demographic growth and high levels of poverty constitute disadvantages for countries when they attempt to increase the level of training and productivity of the labour force.

19. A symptom of the social vulnerability imposed by the profound inequalities within countries —and which have impeded the extension of the benefits of development to large sectors of the population— has been the worsening of poverty during the 1980s. From the demographic point of view, those inequalities are reflected in substantial differences in morbi-mortality rates (especially maternal-infant rates), territorial mobility patterns and fertility rates between different social sectors, ethnic groups and geographic zones. Particularly striking is the lack of family planning programmes based on principles of equal access to sex education and reproductive health services. Undoubtedly, the satisfaction of those demands, and of other social needs, would have a positive impact on the development of human resources. The urgent need to overcome the historical limitations reflected in this type of inequality transforms the issue of equity into one of the central elements of the relationship between population and development. Thus, the principal tasks involve minimizing poverty, developing the talents which potentially exist in all social groups and arbitrating the means to ensure that the concentration of the fruits of progress does not restrict the true liberty of present and future generations. The modalities of the process of change in demographic behaviour are inseparable from initiatives to achieve growing social equity; also in line with this proposal are the means to encourage voluntary and informed decisions with regard to family size or place of residence within each country.

B. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION AND TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

20. Thus, the situation and anticipated trends of population dynamics are key elements for all development strategies which seek to integrate changing production patterns and the achievement of greater social equity. As noted above, the marked decrease in fertility rates (from 6 to 3.4 children per woman) is one of the most pronounced changes in Latin American and Caribbean demographics in the last 30 years, and lowered the natural growth rate to 2% during the 1980s; a rate of 1.7% is projected for the 1990s. In the case of the Caribbean countries, these rates are even lower because of the impact of international migration. Progress has also been made with respect to death rates, reflected in increased life expectancy at birth, from 57 to 69 years; meanwhile, infant mortality rates have fallen from 127 per thousand, in the early 1950s, to 54 per thousand, in the late 1980s. Progress in the area of death rates —associated with interaction between the processes of demographic and epidemiologic transition— should not mask the persistence of certain lags. Thus, maternal death rates have remained high, more than 12 times higher than those of developed countries; the persistence and resurgence of infectious diseases and the rapid spread of AIDS are also current problems in the region.

21. These demographic trends, especially those related to fertility, are modifying the age structure of the population and thereby accentuating the ageing process, the short-term effects of which mean an increase of the population in the productive and reproductive years, in absolute and relative terms. Currently, the number of persons seeking to enter the labour force is growing sharply, with special impact on the younger age groups with their high unemployment rates. Age structure changes in many countries also imply new challenges in the areas of health care, employment and social security. The population over 60 years old, some 31 million persons in 1990, will triple by the year 2025, when that group will constitute 14% of the total number of inhabitants of the region; that rapid growth will impose new demands, unknown to date in most countries, especially on health care and social security systems. The impact of the progressive ageing of the population is especially notable in countries in the later stages of demographic transition, particularly in the Caribbean subregion and other relatively small countries,

in which this demographic process combines with the emigration of the younger population and, in many cases, the return of migrants in their retirement years.

22. Although the region as a whole is in full demographic transition, that generalization is not equally valid for all countries. There are sharp contrasts between those in which women bear an average of nearly six children and others in which they have fewer than two; in some, as well, life expectancy is less than 60 years, while in others it is around 75. Those differences mean that in some countries the population grows at rates of around 3% annually, and, in others, the growth rate is less than 1%. Box 1, together with diagram 1 and the tables in the annex, illustrate that heterogeneity. Similar and even greater disparities emerge from comparisons among the geographic zones, social or ethnic groups within countries; these are the product of the lack of social equity, which hinders broad and non-discriminatory access to essential services, such as education, health care, housing and social security.

23. The mid- and long-term projections of those trends reveal that the rhythm of growth will continue to decrease. In most countries, the average annual growth rate of around 2% will fall to around 1% by 2010, and will be even lower by 2025. According to these projections, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean will increase by 60% between 1990 and 2025, rising to some 700 million persons. As a hypothesis, it has been calculated that the region could arrive at a combination of fertility and mortality such that, on average, each woman would have around two children by around 2020, and that, of them, at least one daughter would replace her in her reproductive function; if that happens, the growth rate would be zero and, therefore, the population would be stable and would experience few subsequent changes. However, in light of the region's still young age distribution, that situation may only prevail after 2050, with a regional population of around 800 million persons. It should be noted that in the Caribbean, replacement will be reached around 2005.

24. As a result of the supposed convergence of fertility rates towards replacement levels, relative age distributions should be characterized by a trend towards an ever-older population; by the middle of the twenty first century, those younger than 15 years of age will represent around 20% of the total population in most countries, although it is necessary to recall that, at the present time, some countries have populations in which more than 40% of the total are minors. As a result of the expected changes in age structures, the dependence ratio will tend to decrease initially —due to lower percentages of children— only to subsequently rise again —as the percentage of the elderly increases; thus, that indicator will decline from 70 persons in their inactive years for every 100 active persons, in the region as a whole, to around 50% in the year 2010, although some countries will still have ratios similar to current regional averages. As fertility trends and age structure alterations converge, the current number of births in many countries is reaching historical maximums and will decline in the future, with subsequent effects on the demand for maternal-child health care and other childhood-related services; however, in countries which have only recently entered into the process of demographic transition, this will only occur in 20 or 30 years. Generally, changes in demographic components, in age structures and in other related factors —such as epidemiological profiles—, make it possible to argue that, in the short and medium terms, diverse demands will coexist, with a significant increase in the numbers of children and of persons in their middle years, to which a larger elderly population will be added.

Box 1

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1985-1990

The basic characteristics of population dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean can be described in terms of the concept of demographic transition, which refers to the evolution from high to low fertility and mortality levels, through stages. This process occurs at different rhythms and in different modalities in the diverse countries of the region, and in different ways within social groups and spatial units. In order to systematize the effects of the significant trends in gross national birth and death rates within the region, four types of situation have been identified for the 1985-1990 five year period.

The first group of countries, in incipient demographic transition, is characterized by generalized poverty, precarious access to social services and a mainly rural population; in these circumstances, birth and death rates remain high, with a high percentage of children and youth, implying high reproductive potential. Bolivia and Haiti are in this group, with average annual rates of natural growth on the order of 2.5%.

The second group, of moderate transition and still low urbanization, have higher rates of natural growth (around 3%), produced by declining death rates and high and sustained birth rates. Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay are in this group. Although these countries have made progress in reducing death rates, making the population younger and increasing dependence ratios, that progress has not reached vast sectors of the rural population nor those below the poverty line; given their high percentages of children and youth, it is likely that, in the short term, their birth rates will continue to be high.

Three fourths of the population of the region lives in predominantly urban countries, in full demographic transition, as can be observed in their declining birth rates and a death rate which, by virtue of health campaigns applied to a young age structure (derived from decreasing fertility rates) and less exposed to the risk of death, has declined considerably. Natural average growth is around 2% annually in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Finally, the group in advanced transition is constituted by some of the most urbanized countries, with average annual rates of natural growth around 1%, arising from comparatively low birth and moderate or low death rates; some of those countries, in which the decline in birth rates occurred long ago, are characterized by the ageing of their age structures. Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Cuba, Guadaloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and Uruguay belong to this group.

Source: J. Chackiel and M. Villa, Latin America and the Caribbean: The dynamics of population and growth (DDR/1), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992; B. Boland, Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean (DDR/2), ECLAC/UNFPA/ CELADE, reference document prepared for the same meeting.

25. International population movements, basically among the countries of the hemisphere, are increasing, as a result of the adjustment process occurring within the region and the disparities between developing and developed countries; this trend is fostered as well by the increasing spread of communications and transportation. Apart from the traditional movement of persons with every level of training in search of improved economic conditions, that mobility includes a numerous contingent of refugees and persons displaced by sociopolitical conflict and of those who are returning to their countries of origin, motivated by current democratization and pacification processes. It has frequently been noted that the situation of migrants is worse than that of those who are native to the destination countries, involving, at times, the violation of the migrants' basic human rights. In this area, the design of measures at the national level are insufficient. Rather, it is necessary to join forces in order to achieve international consensus with respect to appropriate attention for migrants, especially in light of the opportunities created by processes of regional integration. International migration is a cause of particular concern in the Caribbean subregion, because, given that those countries are small in size and have small populations, population exchanges accentuate their vulnerability to external economic factors. In particular, international mobility has repercussions on the sex, age and occupational structures of the population and on the environment and, therefore, places the development of those countries in jeopardy.

26. To these trends, it is necessary to add the intense processes of urbanization and metropolization through which the region, still predominately rural in 1950, has currently come to have 71% of its inhabitants living in urban areas, largely due to strong internal migratory currents. Towards the year 2000, those living in urban areas will represent 75% of the total population. The region, with less than 10% of the total world population, contains four of the ten largest cities in the world. However, that situation is not homogeneous, given that, in some countries, the rural population still represents more than 60% of the total population. At the same time, the growing diversity in internal migratory flows, including those among urban systems and among rural zones, should be noted. It has also been observed that the prevalent models of development have favoured the territorial concentration of economic activities and of population, with subsequent impact on integral economic development and social and regional equity. Continually improved training of human resources, the provision of services which tend to improve the quality of life in all regions of countries, together with the decentralization of management and investment processes, should be central components of social equity and changing production pattern strategies.

27. Another phenomenon which is emerging with force and is a cause of concern in some countries of the region is the mobility of persons displaced for various reasons, although the common factor seems to be domestic conflict of one kind or another. The situation of those persons, women in particular, is different from that of refugees, because the fact that they remain within the national territory makes them ineligible for the services of specialized organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Moreover, their destinations and conditions are extremely heterogeneous and their demands are complex, making them highly vulnerable groups, in both urban and rural contexts.

28. Conflictive situations in the relation between demographic trends, development and the environment —in urban and rural ecosystems— have been observed. Especially important are the problems of the large metropolis, which lacks basic services —water, sewage, waste collection— and suffers water and atmospheric contamination —produced by the lack of technologies to control that contamination and insufficient investment in infrastructure, among other factors. In rural zones, deforestation and soil degradation in areas recently incorporated into agricultural use and in small-plot farm zones —where farmers are obliged to over-exploit their land— are also noteworthy. The relationships between the

demographic situation and natural resources in the small island countries of the Caribbean, as well as their capacity to organize and mobilize those resources to face the problems arising from those relationships, merit special attention. In those conditions, a strategy of sustainable development which implies sustained economic growth based on changing production patterns, in coherence with social policies (employment, population, health care and education) which will ensure social equity and provide special attention for the protection of the environment, is called for.

29. A particularly unacceptable expression of the lack of equity in the region is that which affects women. From the perspective of population, that situation is most notable in the difficulty women face in the exercise of their reproductive rights, that is, in the lack of access —and of options— with respect to the use of contraceptive methods. The fact of having to assume major responsibility for family planning, and for educating and raising the children and domestic tasks, together with the risk implied by the high illness and death rates associated with pregnancy and childbirth, are excessive burdens. And, given the impact on their future, the situation which affects adolescent women, who lack adequate sex education, family life education and access to contraceptives, is especially serious, in so far as they are exposed to unwanted pregnancies, the risks of clandestine abortions and the multiple restrictions which society imposes on the legitimacy of their descendants. Another cause of concern is the prevalence of pregnancies among adolescent women particularly in the Caribbean countries. Moreover, a high and growing proportion of women (reaching an average of 40% in some countries) are fulfilling the role of head of household, often characterized by social vulnerability and precarious economic conditions. In these so profoundly inequitable conditions, society, as a whole, must move towards adopting measures which will guarantee equal treatment for men and women. Every violation of equity based on sex distinctions in the areas of education and labour must be avoided. Priority must also be given to the solution of the problems faced by displaced and refugee women. Finally, necessary and sufficient measures to eradicate the violence to which women in general are subject must be adopted.

30. The integration of population factors into development strategies, has been and will continue to be particularly relevant. In spite of progress in this regard, deficiencies are still evident: the need for greater precision with respect to the type and direction of the interaction between demographic variables and those of socio-economic development; the absence of technical training to include population issues in economic and social policy; the lack of political will and commitment to establish institutional mechanisms which would allow population to be considered as an endogenous component of development strategies; and the imbalance between the objectives of socio-demographic policy and the impact of economic policy, strategies and programmes. The State plays an important role in the harmonization of the relationship between population and development. International cooperation, both financial and technical, has been important in the promotion, formulation and execution of population policies and programmes. However, a notable disproportion between needs and available resources persists, a disparity which has become more pronounced in recent years. Intraregional and interregional cooperation is an effective instrument for responding to the common needs of several countries and for complementing and strengthening national activities.

C. ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBSTACLES IN THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND EXECUTION OF POPULATION POLICY

Progress and limitations

31. The countries of the region display heterogeneous behaviour with regard to policy definition in the area of population issues. Some have adopted measures geared to affect certain demographic variables and their causes, while others have formulated explicit global policies. However, many of the latter have faced difficulties in their efforts to move beyond the design stage and implement the desired measures. In contrast, certain sectoral initiatives, even in the absence of global population policy, seem to have been more successful, as is illustrated by the significant force of family planning and reproductive health programmes or in maternal-child health care (which also include family planning components), usually promoted by the Health Ministries. Moreover, progress has been made in the incorporation of demographic variables into economic and social development policy and programmes.

32. In short, it can be stated that progress has been made in the last 20 years, even though sufficiently grievous deficiencies persist to make population issues a serious challenge for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In fact, this is an area in which the exchange of experiences, training, technical assistance and horizontal cooperation should play a basic role within the region. For this reason, and as a first attempt at a diagnosis, this section identifies some of the many obstacles faced in the effort to design and implement population policy.

33. One of the main difficulties is the persistence, in some countries, of ideological polemics with regard to appropriate measures to be taken in pursuit of population objectives, especially those designed to lower fertility rates. Those controversies become more extreme when the meaning of population policy is confused with action limited to control of births. That erroneous perception —the basis of false dilemmas— arises from the lack of understanding of the value of population policies to economic and social development; there is a tendency to not recognize the usefulness of the measures provided for in that policy as supportive elements for achieving specific development goals, especially when those policies are formulated within the broader framework of social policy. Diverse factors explain that lack of understanding, although efforts to increase sensitivity to socio-demographic issues in opinion-makers, public-sector leaders and society in general have been deficient.

34. The deficiencies of campaigns geared to generate social awareness of population and development issues have produced a lack of effective political will in this regard. Strictly speaking, technical efforts have been made which, given these restrictions and certain difficulties in articulating the relevant proposals within political discourse, have not taken shape in operational strategies. Thus, it is understandable that, in many cases, it has not been possible to engage diverse social sectors in concerted action on the basis of shared objectives with regard to population. To the contrary, the risk of facing the adverse reaction of groups with influence on public opinion has frustrated certain initiatives, before they were submitted to open debate.

35. The socio-political voids reflected in this situation also give rise to new difficulties when it comes to establishing mechanisms to implement population policy, the execution of which implies distributing responsibilities among diverse institutions, both in the public and private sectors and in organized civil society. Within that context, it is nearly impossible to implement the necessary strategies of community participation within the mechanisms responsible for the formulation, execution and evaluation of action.

Undoubtedly, when population policy is affected by institutional fragility, it is understandable that finance sources dry up and, for the same reason, that those initiatives remain as relatively abstract announcements of intentions. In the absence of solid institutional commitment and adequate budgets, the vicissitudes of personnel stability lead to the loss of qualified human resources.

36. Knowledge about the complex interactions between population and development has been found insufficient for practical application. This is clear in topics involving sociocultural factors and is an obstacle worth mentioning. The voids with respect to what is known about demographic behaviour and its economic and social implications make it difficult to identify intermediary factors. If these factors were understood, they could be used for direct intervention to achieve changes which are coherent with the desired objectives. The missing knowledge restricts the design of effective measures and instruments which could also form part of other economic and social policies. Those voids are even more evident in the face of new trends in the development model being chosen by countries and with regard to which population policy could be highly functional. These observations are particularly relevant with respect to objectives designed to improve the quality of human resources, to increase the productivity of the labour force and advance towards higher levels of social equity. Overcoming these limitations implies fluid communication among researchers and technicians dedicated to planning in demographics and, in the broadest sense, investment in human resources.

37. The execution of policy already formulated also faces obstacles. In some cases, the scant precision of objectives —particularly in terms of their social, temporal and territorial implications— has made their implementation in operational programmes difficult. In this sense, one of the problems faced in the formulation and execution of population policy is the visualization of short- and mid-term demographic scenarios, a task which becomes even more complex when it comes to defining initiatives for specific population groups or with respect to sub-national spaces. While diverse types of social demands are notable for their urgency, the horizons involved in population policy cover relatively long periods of time. That temporal dissonance, often aggravated by the commitments which each Government must fulfil during its relatively brief tenure in office, interferes with the necessary continuity of actions designed to achieve certain demographic objectives or goals. In the same way, the concerns and interests of the local community have not always been adequately represented in the definition of priorities, generating conflict between the tendency to centralize coordination and the demands of decentralized execution.

38. Many countries have encountered serious limitations in the evaluation of population policy. Political voids, inadequate campaigns to generate sensitivity, personnel mobility, gaps in knowledge, the scarcity of available resources and operational rigidities work together to make evaluation extremely difficult. To this is added the lack of expeditious and adequate instruments and the inability of information sources to supply up-to-date and continuous data.

Experience to date

39. In spite of the diversity of the obstacles encountered, the countries of the region have acquired broad experience in terms of institutional mechanisms for generating population policy and programmes. Although they have varied over time, the institutional mechanisms adopted can be classified in three categories: a) establishment of national population councils; b) formation of working groups for the specific purpose of formulating population policy; and c) creation of population units within national ministries for development planning.

40. Most countries have established entities of the first type, that is, multisectoral councils or commissions, in which representatives of diverse ministries and public-sector entities participate. In spite of their official status, many have functioned only minimally or simply not at all. Others, which functioned normally at first, later lost their inertia and have been reorganized or replaced by some other institutional modality. In contrast, in countries in which national councils had genuine and solid political support from the beginning, they have persisted, not only in their concern for the diverse dimensions of population dynamics, but in the articulation of solid networks of institutional support, which has enabled them to overcome the difficulties inherent to changes in government. Finally, those councils in other countries emerged after some other entity, responsible for research and diagnosis of demographic dynamics or for implementing specific population activities, was assigned higher rank among governmental institutions.

41. The constitution of those population councils has been diverse from country to country. In some, their members were professionals who, while outstanding in their fields, were relatively distant from the spheres of political decision and, for that reason, all their recommendations were necessarily consulted with higher authorities in the institutions they represented. On the other extreme were councils which, being constituted by the ministers themselves or their immediate representatives, were difficult to convene for working meetings, a restriction even more notable when population dynamics did not figure among the political issues assigned highest priority. Furthermore, it should be noted that in some countries the councils have functioned only in reaction to certain immediate situations, given that there is no defined and systematic work plan.

42. Among countries which have created ad hoc groups to address population issues, some of the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean are the most notable example. During the 1980s, they established population task forces made up of representatives of various ministries and dedicated to performing diagnostic studies in support of the formulation of population policy and of recommendations for the incorporation of demographic variables into governmental plans and programmes. It should be noted that more than half of those working groups fulfilled their mandates by formulating the required policy measures; the others did not fulfil their objectives and remain inactive.

43. Finally, some countries of the region have assigned the task of formulating population policy to the national organization responsible for development planning. This task has been linked to the activities of certain mechanisms responsible for incorporating demographic variables into development planning at every level (global, regional, sectoral). In some cases, it was not possible to create a division to deal with these matters; in others, the decision was taken to create a new division, following on experiments with sectoral organizations responsible for a specific aspect of population policy or after verifying the poor performance of the interministerial population councils created previously. Some of these units have performed research and studies of population and its relationship with other aspects of development. Of these, some even managed to propose population policy guidelines, while others have worked to disseminate and promote population activities.

44. These three categories do not exhaust the range of institutional mechanisms within the region; nor are they mutually exclusive. Moreover, given that the task of executing population policy is not always a function of the organization responsible for formulating it, it is highly probable that, at least in theory, that responsibility is lodged in a spectrum of institutions. As well, the fact that a country has developed explicit population policy does not absolve it from constant efforts to incorporate demographic variables into development policy and programmes, a task also faced by countries which do not have that general

policy. As can be observed throughout the region, that last factor is fairly commonplace and merits consideration as a specific issue in this section.

The incorporation of demographic variables into policies and programmes

45. The experience of population units within national development planning organizations reveals both progress and limitations. In some cases, the purpose of that incorporation remains unclear, given the tendency to consider population as a specific social sector and ignore its essentially multisectoral nature; in others, not limited by that criterion, operational and methodological problems have arisen. Where large-scale demo-economic models have been employed, results have been scant, owing both to the restrictions inherent in that type of approach —such as the inability to establish endogenous relationships between the variables identified, thus hindering analysis of eventual repercussions of different strategic options—, and to external factors (lack of adequate information, of qualified personnel, infrastructural deficiencies for data computation and processing). Most countries have obtained better results with smaller-scale models, which focus on specific problems and sectors and lend themselves to the analysis of the effects of demographic trends on the needs of diverse social services at the national and sub-national levels; however, the lack of trained personnel and of timely, reliable, accurate and disaggregated statistics is an obstacle for the optimum exploitation of that type of methodology.

46. In spite of these restrictions, efforts to incorporate demographic variables more effectively into development policy and programmes are a valuable factor in the difficult process of formulating and executing explicit population policies. Progress along those lines will establish more solid foundations for the measures to be implemented both in technical terms and with regard to their sociopolitical legitimacy, making it possible to overcome certain simplistic appreciations with respect to some social problems. The models are also highly functional for resource programming, especially in so far as their application addresses the new challenges and opportunities emerging from the recently developed strategies for focusing and decentralizing public action. For all of these reasons, Governments deem it necessary to increase the dissemination and training in the use of instruments which will enable greater integration of population factors into their policies and programmes.

Final reflections on institutional mechanisms

47. The examination of the institutional arrangements adopted by countries to deal with population issues reveals that, even with the diversity of their specific modalities, they face common problems which hinder optimum performance. In general, since political authorities assign higher priority to economic policy or specific social measures, demographic dynamics may be relegated to secondary levels of concern, thus eliminating the possibility to employ knowledge of the interrelationships between those dynamics and the mid- and long-term evolution of the economy and society. That short-term perspective has often led the authorities to abandon population policy already formulated and to commit the error of believing that population issues are only individual and family concerns, not relevant to society as a whole. That perspective has also led Governments to neglect the needs of their own population organizations in allocating resources; this, in turn, hinders effective coordination among the entities responsible for those programmes which could lead to the success of population policy.

48. Some countries have attempted to reformulate their operational modalities, strengthening ties among technical, scientific and political entities, in an effort to overcome the scant institutional development of

their national population organizations. Undoubtedly, the success of population policy depends, to a large extent, on the solidity of its scientific and technical base, which implies the constant provision of knowledge to inform decisions, identify operational instruments, design programmes and projects linked to economic and social policy, and to specify follow-up and evaluation mechanisms. To that end, technical population committees —with the rank of inter-ministerial commissions, in some cases— and divisions within a ministry (often the planning ministry) have been formed. Although several entities have performed demographic research and studies, their operational projection has been slight, with the result that they are usually considered to be of mainly academic interest.

49. In spite of efforts at functional articulation, substantial institutional improvements are not evident. In fact, the deficiencies noted are not only apparent in terms of low budgets —which leads to scarcity and frequent rotation of personnel trained in population and development issues—, but have also affected their true areas of competence. Thus, when the task of formulating population policy has been assigned to national planning organizations, the technical mechanisms have tended to be predominant; given the resulting atmosphere of relative autonomy, their proposals have, in some cases, fallen into a political void. The loss of relative weight which planning systems have suffered since the 1980s has only aggravated the situation. When the responsibility for formulating population policy has been assigned to a multisectoral organization, problems of coordination among institutions have worsened, except when design tasks were assigned to a State secretariat, in which case there is the danger of sectoral bias. Finally, some countries have attempted to mitigate the lack of institutional articulation by creating parliamentary commissions on population and development, the evaluation of which is, as yet, premature.

50. The adequate articulation of institutional mechanisms is undoubtedly an essential requisite for the success of population policy. The region has accumulated valuable and relatively broad experience and the lessons taught by previous experience constitute a foundation on which it is necessary to continue to build. Efforts must also be made to advance on several fronts, including institutional organizations as such, modalities for coordination and work methodologies, as well as diverse activities —such as the analysis and exchange of experiences, training and applied research— in order to guarantee solid progress in the future.

D. THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FRAME OF REFERENCE

51. The World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) (Bucharest, 1974), revised in Mexico City in 1984, is the basic antecedent for this Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development. Since then, and in a large number of international conferences and forums, the countries of the region have adopted new agreements and recommendations with regard to population, which are also antecedents of this Regional Plan of Action.[4] This section refers to the agreements most closely related to the issues around which the objectives and goals of this Plan are articulated, and which, in turn, derive basically from the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, approved in the Regional Conference on those issues (Mexico City, May 1993). That Consensus, is the basic framework within which this Plan is inscribed. When the time comes, the Plan will be adjusted

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[4] Only those meetings held since 1984, in which agreements directly related to the issues dealt with in this Regional Plan of Action were adopted, are considered in this section. The references do not attempt to summarize the content of those agreements, but only allude to issues treated in them.

in accordance with the agreements to be adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).

52. On diverse occasions, the countries of the region have renewed their firm commitment to give special attention to the *environment* in their efforts to integrate population into the development process systematically. There was consensus in the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) that an integrated approach was necessary for the formulation of development policy, plans and programmes, which would take into account the interrelationships among population, resources, the environment and development. That decision was ratified, more recently, in the International Forums on Population Policies in Development Planning (Mexico City, 1987) and on Population in the Twenty-first Century (Amsterdam, 1989), as well as very especially in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). Analogously, matters concerning the institutionalization of social and population policies, the stimulation of training, information and research on issues related to population, development and the environment have been underscored in a series of international meetings, conferences and forums.

53. The *search for gender equity* in population policy emerged as a clear commitment in the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) and in the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Nairobi, 1985). That principle was ratified in the International Conference on Better Health for Women and Children through Family Planning (Nairobi, 1987) and in the International Forums on population policy mentioned above (Mexico, 1987, and Amsterdam, 1989). At the regional level, gender equality is a precept of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, adopted in 1977, with important subsequent contributions, such as those achieved in the regional conference held at Mexico City in 1983 and in the conferences on that issue held every three years. Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) also contains proposals in this regard.

54. In turn, *international migration* has been considered in many international meetings and recognition of the importance of that issue has grown throughout the region, in light of the impact of economic and social changes and initiatives to integrate markets. The WPPA recommendations, which promote the adoption of measures to guarantee the rights of migrants and their families, as well as those of refugees and displaced persons, have been reaffirmed in those meetings. The new International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families should be added to the agreements already approved. In this regard, the conclusions of the Regional Seminar on Migration Policies, Integration and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Challenges and Opportunities of the Present Decade (Punta del Este, 1993), are significant.

55. As for *family health, well-being and planning*, the WPPA contains important recommendations, which have been supported in the International Forums on Population Policies (Mexico, 1987, and Amsterdam, 1989). A series of goals and commitments to action, approved by Governments, is reflected in the strategy of the Pan American Health Organization, which has proposed to ensure health for all by the year 2000. The situation of *children*, intimately related to family well-being, has been the subject of a number of international agreements, among which the World Summit for Children (New York, 1990) is outstanding. Adolescents also constitute a group which has caused serious concern, above all in light of the need to provide reproductive health care and avoid early pregnancies (Amsterdam, 1989).

56. The international community has assigned ever higher priority to the issue of *social development*, as can be observed in the agendas of recent meetings and of those to be held in the coming years. The agreements which may be adopted in those meetings will certainly influence the matters referred to in this Regional Plan of Action. Among those meetings, the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), especially its recommendations on the full and free participation of *indigenous populations* in all aspects of society; the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 1994); the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995); the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II; Turkey, 1996) should be mentioned.

57. The WPPA contains numerous recommendations with regard to *population age structure*, and its repercussions. Reference to concern for children and adolescents was made above. As a result of the changes produced by demographic transition, the *elderly* population is growing rapidly in many countries of the region, the implications of which are a matter of growing concern. The recommendations adopted in consultative meetings (Washington, 1988 and 1992) and in the Consensus on Policies for the Care of the Elderly in Latin America (Santiago, Chile, 1992) should be added to those of the WPPA on the adoption of measures to ensure the well-being and security of the elderly, especially women.

58. As well, *population distribution, internal migration and urbanization* have been examined in diverse conferences. Again, the WPPA and the Amsterdam Forum (1989) contain important recommendations in this regard. Diverse meetings on matters related to the environment have also dealt with these issues.

59. In relation to the family, the countries of the region agreed, at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the International Year of the Family, held at Cartagena, Colombia, in 1993, to promote policies, adopt legal provisions and allocate resources for the protection of the family.

III. OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

60. On the basis of the examination of the demographic and socio-economic changes in Latin America and the Caribbean and the accumulated experience in the application of population policy and programmes over the last 20 years, the consensus achieved by the countries of the region in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 1993) and the international agreements on those issues, the countries of the region have proposed an interrelated set of objectives which, grouped in seven sections, are presented below.

A. POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

61. General objective: To harmonize the mutual relationships among population dynamics, the environment and social and economic development.

62. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To broaden the consideration of trends in demographic variables in sectoral and regional policies and ensure the coherent integration of population and environment policies into economic and social development strategies.

ii) To adopt environmentally sustainable development strategies which assign adequate priority to social programmes and policies, including those related to population and the alleviation of poverty.

iii) To give priority attention to the search for coherence between population policies and those related to the environment.

iv) To guarantee that economic development programmes and strategies take into account their impact on the mobility and territorial distribution of the population, and to adopt measures to face present and future problems derived from these phenomena, particularly those related to the environment.

v) To undertake in-depth studies of the linkages between population and the environment which will serve as the basis for the formulation of development strategies, with special attention to social equity and resource use and taking into account the knowledge of the autochthonous populations with regard to their relationship with nature.

vi) To reinforce and broaden, at all levels, educational and communications programmes on the preservation of the environment and its relationships to productive activities, consumption patterns and population dynamics, through communications and formal and informal educational programmes.

vii) To consider mid- and long-term changes in population age structures in the formulation of social policies (health care and social security, employment, education and housing), in order to guarantee attention for faster growing and more vulnerable age groups.

viii) To organize training and employment programmes which, considering the high rates of incorporation into the active years and the need to promote equality of opportunity, will assign primary importance to youth, in order to guarantee improved workforce productivity and authentic competitive capacity for the economies of the region.

ix) To promote social participation and integration and ensure adequate attention, in the areas of health care and social security, for the elderly, whose number and relative weight will increase, given the demographic changes observed in the region.

x) To reinforce the progress made in the incorporation of reproductive features in health programmes, especially family planning programmes. To advance, as well, in the area of education and other social policies which support the objectives pursued by each country with regard to population matters.

B. GENDER EQUITY

63. General objective: To contribute to improving women's status and position in society, promoting favourable changes in the relations between men and women, through the integration of action to that end in the area of population policy and programmes.[5]

64. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To guarantee equal job opportunities with equitable remuneration; combat discrimination against women in the legal, labour, social and political fields; promote the recognition and appreciation of women's work in all areas; and facilitate women's access to credit and the ownership of goods.

ii) To guarantee adequate working conditions to protect the health of women and their children. To reinforce day care infrastructure to cover self employed and salaried sectors of workers for whom that service is not available.

iii) To take the necessary initiatives to promote equity in education, especially those which promote the incorporation and permanence of women in the middle and higher levels of the educational system.

iv) To contribute to the improvement of health care for women, especially in the area of reproductive health, including family life and sex education, family planning, care during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, as well as the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. To focus those measures especially on adolescents.

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[5] This Plan takes as its own the objectives identified in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development of 1977 and the new proposals made in the conferences on that issue held every three years.

v) To actively incorporate men into family planning programmes and family life education, in order to promote the shared responsibility of men and women in reproduction and reproductive health. Particularly, to promote the further development of contraceptive methods for men.

vi) To promote sex education activities from the gender perspective, focused mainly on adolescents, with the participation of parents and teachers.

vii) To incorporate the gender perspective into the design of study plans for different educational levels, both formal and informal, in order to bring about positive changes in attitudes, values and beliefs about sexuality and the roles to be played by men and women within domestic units.

viii) To promote educational communication on issues related to gender equity, in order to eliminate social stereotypes which presuppose women's inferiority, promoting shared responsibility between women and men for domestic labour, the education and raising of the children and family planning.

ix) To develop action geared to generate sensitivity in the owners and producers of the mass media and in opinion leaders with respect to the representation of masculine and feminine role models, the family, relationships within the couple and sexuality, in order to promote gender equity.

x) To promote and communicate legislative advances to eliminate inequities and discrimination against women with respect to their social and political rights, especially in the areas of reproduction and family life, and to establish adequate mechanisms for the effective exercise of those rights.

xi) To encourage the active participation of diverse social sectors in the design and implementation of population programmes which take into account the gender perspective and to reinforce or create adequate mechanisms to ensure the continuity and follow-up of those programmes and to evaluate their short- and mid-term impact.

xii) To take into account in the design of social and population policies the modalities of women's migration, as well as its repercussions, and of men's migration on the social condition of women, particularly in the configuration of domestic units and the way in which the woman's role in the development of life strategies is affected by the absence of the man.

C. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, FAMILY PLANNING AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

65. General objective: To strengthen the family. To improve the health of the population, particularly reproductive health, and guarantee the right of persons to decide, in free and informed fashion, the number and spacing of their children.

66. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) Strengthen the institution of the family, protecting its role in the socialization of future generations and ensuring that, within the family itself, shared ethical values are communicated and children are prepared for daily life. To this end, it is necessary to take into account the existence of diverse types of family, as well as the changes which occur in it.

ii) Develop programmes targeting the family to ensure that attitudes are acquired within the family that are consistent with environmental preservation, so that families contribute to development while enjoying its benefits.

iii) Harmonize economic adjustment measures with social processes that promote the stability of families and the performance of their functions.

iv) Ensure that legislation on the family incorporates conciliation mechanisms and laws designed to prevent violence, discrimination and exploitation of members of the family group.

v) Develop programmes that make it possible to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual abuse.

vi) Incorporate the family dimension into the formulation of public policies, in order to ensure the viability of families and meet their basic needs, guaranteeing due respect for the ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic characteristics of families.

vii) Assign the highest political priority and allocate resources to the search for a more equitable distribution of family health care services, especially those related to maternal and child health and reproductive health, in order to respond to the needs of groups which, given their geographical location or social condition, do not yet have access to those services.

viii) Promote and consolidate programmes of formal and informal education and information services on responsible parenting, family life and sexuality.

ix) Give priority to child care, reinforcing prevention and primary health care services. Resources should be directed, first, to the least protected population.

x) Incorporate into reproductive health care services, population education and family planning programmes, measures which will help prevent sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS; and to ensure adequate medical attention and non-discriminatory treatment for the ill. To study the impact of the increase of HIV/AIDS and of the measures for combating it on death rates and the sexual and reproductive behaviour of the population.

xi) Offer access to services for risk-free maternity, particularly those related to sex education, care during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, and family planning. Those services should offer high quality, integral attention, taking into account the sociocultural identity of the users and assigning priority to the most vulnerable population groups.

xii) Lower the incidence of abortions and attendant complications by increasing the coverage and quality of family planning, reproductive health and sex education programmes.

xiii) Design and adopt models of integral reproductive health care for adolescents, including educational components on population and family planning, adequate to their sociocultural context. To reexamine regulations which restrict that population segment's access to contraceptives.

xiv) Implement programmes which will help reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and its psychosocial consequences and will promote continuation of the mothers' educational process and create improved conditions for their insertion into the labour market and society as a whole.

xv) Develop information, educational and communications strategies in order to achieve the egalitarian participation of men and women in decisions related to family planning. Likewise, to promote the education of men in the area of responsible parenthood and the further development of contraceptives which they can use.

xvi) Improve the quality of family planning services through the following measures: broadening the spectrum of contraceptive options and information about their characteristics, reinforcing the technical competence of those who operate those services, improving the interpersonal relationship with users and perfecting their structures and organization. In particular, to reinforce the advisory mechanisms which inform potential users of sterilization about the existence of other contraceptive methods and about the consequences of opting for a permanent method.

xvii) Support biomedical research to develop safer, less costly contraceptives and encourage their production locally; to develop more effective procedures to detect the moment of ovulation and seek mechanisms to promote the transmission of relevant knowledge in this regard to population groups which prefer methods based on periodic abstinence.

xviii) Promote access to services for the treatment of infertility and those for assisted fertility, within the framework of internationally established ethical principles and norms, so that couples can have the number of children they desire.

xix) Consider that, although for programmatic purposes it may be convenient to establish goals in terms of number of users or of fertility rates, that should not interfere with the exercise of individual liberties. The entities which operate those services should avoid fixing quotas for contraceptive users.

67. Goals for the year 2000:[6] The following goals are based on already adopted agreements, as indicated in each case:

i) To reduce by a third the death rate among children younger than one year and those under five —or to 50 and 70 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, if that is a lower rate—, using 1990 values as the point of reference (UNICEF, World Summit for Children).

ii) To attain a life expectancy of 70 years or, at least, to gain eight years with respect to the 1990 value. Countries with low death rates should continue efforts to improve health services to reduce death rates even more (UNFPA, Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, 1989; and WHO, Health for All by the Year 2000).

iii) To reduce maternal death rates, by at least 50%, with respect to the 1990 value (UNICEF, World Summit for Children).

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[6] Given that the Cairo Conference will probably set goals for the years 2005 and 2015, those announced here will be revised and enriched by those adopted at that conference.

Moreover, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have established the following goals:

i) To reduce, by at least 50%, the unsatisfied demand for contraceptive methods, that is, the percentage of women exposed to the risk of pregnancy who do not wish to have more children or wish to postpone pregnancy and do not use any contraceptive method. In particular, to make maximum efforts to reduce the incidence of unplanned and unwanted adolescent pregnancies.

ii) To reduce, by at least 50%, the differences between infant mortality rates, maternal mortality rates and the unsatisfied demand for family planning services, as observed among different places of residence, geographical locations and social groups.

iii) To attain real knowledge about safe contraceptive methods, as well as of where to obtain them, for all persons in their reproductive years, to substantially increase real access to those methods.

iv) To achieve the incorporation and institutionalization of matters related to population in the study programmes of all basic or primary and middle or secondary educational establishments.

v) To evaluate and revise national laws which may obstruct the full exercise of reproductive rights.

D. TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

68. General objective: To promote a territorial distribution of the population which is conductive to changing production patterns of the economy, greater social and spatial equity and environmental sustainability.

69. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To consider the significant impact of productive development strategies on migratory flows, so that the former will be designed in accordance with a more adequate territorial distribution of the population.

ii) To encourage programmes of regional development originating in the regions themselves, in an effective process of decentralization, which will include taking the more important public decisions at the local level.

iii) To encourage the diversification of migratory destinations, avoiding population concentrations in large urban nuclei, by developing intermediate cities, on the basis of the examination of their potential.

iv) To improve and extend the basic infrastructure of essential services and raise the environmental quality, particularly of marginal urban zones, especially those in the large metropolitan areas, and of rural areas, according to the needs of individual countries.

v) To reinforce rural development programmes, in support of small and mid-size farmers and micro-enterprises, which will influence both the location of productive activities and the well-being of the population.

vi) To promote measures to protect the environment against degradation caused by the expansion of human settlements into fragile ecosystems. These measures should promote the development of infrastructure and incentives for expansion into preferable zones.

vii) To reinforce programmes that attend persons displaced by sociopolitical conflicts within countries and include their return to places of origin and adequate reengagement in social and economic activities, with special attention to women.

viii) To give special attention to the situation of indigenous populations and other ethnic groups when considering the spatial impact of development strategies.

E. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

70. General objective: To harmonize international migratory trends with the objectives of development, so that migratory flows will not be a cause of controversy between countries, and to protect the human rights of persons who have migrated.

71. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To promote surveys and on-going analysis of the diverse modalities and magnitude of migratory flows, taking into account their impact on demographic and economic trends in the countries of the region, especially the smallest countries, the island countries, and those in which the phenomenon is particularly significant, for the purpose of designing international migration policies. To promote the improvement of data sources, the exchange of information and research results, and the elaboration of periodic national and regional reports on international migration, with the support of the relevant international organizations, when considered convenient.

ii) To promote international, regional and bilateral agreements and the revision and renewal of national juridical frameworks, in order to normalize the situation of migrants, especially that of undocumented workers and refugees, and to ensure respect for their basic rights. In addition, to conduct campaigns to generate public opinion sensitivity so as to mitigate the rejection suffered by migrants for ethnic and social reasons. Simultaneously, to ensure respect for the basic rights and privileges of the receiving populations.

iii) To reinforce cooperation and the exchange of information among the countries of the region and with countries outside the region, with regard to their general policies for international migration, as well as to norms to regulate entry and residence within national territories.

iv) To establish economic and social programmes which will guarantee repatriation and adequate reinsertion for displaced persons and refugees, when the cause of their displacement has ended. To promote measures, in receiving countries, for the satisfaction of the basic needs of refugee groups not incorporated into repatriation processes. Special attention should be given to refugee and displaced women, given that they constitute a particularly vulnerable group.

v) To intensify social and economic development programmes, as well as pacification processes, so as to avoid involuntary movements of persons across international frontiers.

vi) To establish programmes designed to favour the permanence in their countries of origin, or the return and reincorporation, of qualified human resources. Particularly, to encourage scientific and technological cooperation between developed and developing countries, in order to increase the transfer of technology to the latter, in just and favourable conditions, and facilitate its diffusion and use in the latter. To reinforce cooperation among the countries of the region for the same purpose.

vii) To promote agreements with developed countries in order to reduce migration out of the region, by, among other things, encouraging foreign investments, technology transfer, and the transfer of industrial units and by facilitating exports to those countries by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers.

viii) To give priority attention to population movements, especially those motivated by employment considerations, in the context of regional economic integration being set up in Latin America and the Caribbean, through the adoption of adequate instruments to confront new socio-economic developments.

F. THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

72. General objective: To develop institutional arrangements, at governmental level, which will make it possible to formulate, execute and evaluate population policy and programmes, according to the characteristics and requirements of individual countries and their overall development strategies; and to create social awareness on population issues and their linkage to sustainable development, social equity and human rights, through educational and communications programmes.

73. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To review and renew existing juridical and institutional frameworks to ensure real integration between population policy and programmes and development strategies and programmes. It is particularly important to establish clear intersectoral and intrasectoral coordination mechanisms, in order to guarantee the consensus and participation of the different social agents involved.

ii) To motivate legislators, local governments, private-sector entities, non-governmental organizations, social sectors and ethnic groups so they will participate actively in the development of the necessary institutional frameworks for the design and execution of population policies and programmes. To reinforce awareness-raising activities focused on those groups with regard to the importance of taking demographic criteria into account in their diverse areas of competence, as well as the objectives and goals of population programmes, in order to ensure that they act in accordance with those considerations.

iii) To encourage the decentralized execution of population policies and programmes within each country, allowing for adjustment to diverse sociocultural conditions and easier identification of the geographic zones towards which resources should be channelled first.

iv) To promote greater understanding of the demographic reality of the region through school and adult educational processes, which will seek to create awareness of the problems inherent to the growth and the territorial distribution of the population, in order to develop participative, responsible and critical attitudes, in accordance with the population policy of each country.

v) To strengthen programmes of education in population in order to facilitate free and informed decision-making with respect to reproduction and place of residence, considering the objectives of population policy in each country and respecting cultural diversity.

vi) To design programmes and methods for education in population that are apt for diffusion through formal and informal educational systems and the mass media, and that cover the following issues: population and development, population and the environment, family, sex education and gender. To design mechanisms for the transmission of those issues adequate to the diverse social and ethnic groups of each country.

G. TRAINING, INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

74. General objective: To reinforce and promote the development of human resources, as well as research, the production and dissemination of knowledge and information which will make it possible to formulate, apply and evaluate population policies and programmes, together with the consideration of demographic trends in economic and social development policy and programmes.

75. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To intensify efforts at regional, subregional and national levels to train specialists on population, in order to solve present and future problems with respect to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies and programmes. To strengthen subregional and national infrastructure, especially in Central America and the Caribbean, for the teaching of demography and population and development. This should be done on the basis of international technical cooperation, taking into account and reinforcing the existing capacity of the ECLAC secretariat, including CELADE, and other national and subregional organizations and institutions working in the field.

ii) To strengthen national centres dedicated to research and the development of human resources in the area of population. Especially, to encourage the incorporation of courses on demographic variables and their linkages to development planning in university study programmes, mainly in the social sciences, economics and those related to health and the environment.

iii) To create and implement new, low-cost teaching methods in the area of population, which will respond to the broad range of demands of qualified personnel in that area. Training programmes should include updating and advanced training components, which could be provided by correspondence.

iv) To strengthen national and regional statistical organizations, improving the quality of censuses, promoting specialized surveys, assigning special attention to vital statistics and other sources, and encouraging the development of innovative sources and methods for collecting data. Those information sources should include the ecological dimension and employ units of analysis based on the existence of ecosystems. Special attention should also be given to the availability of information disaggregated by geographical area.

v) To ensure and strengthen initiatives with regard to national, subregional and regional networks of bibliographic information and numerical data bases, for use in the exchange of knowledge and experiences useful to the countries of the region. Likewise, the dissemination of magazines and periodical publications which address issues related to demographic trends and their impact on the development of the countries of the region should be encouraged.

vi) To promote and support the creation of national and regional associations of population specialists and encourage the articulation of data networks on the availability of human resources and specialized institutions in this field.

vii) To reinforce research which will advance the integration of population policy and programmes into development plans and programmes, for which it will be necessary to encourage closer interaction among those responsible for the formulation of that policy and population researchers, at the regional, national and local levels.

IV. REGIONAL ACTIONS

76. In accordance with its general purposes, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development proposes to support regional and subregional actions aimed at helping to achieve the objectives and goals of the countries of the region. In carrying out these actions, the countries and subregional and regional forums will seek the collaboration of all organizations and institutions, both national and international, that work in the area of population.

77. The list of regional actions contained in this Plan —which is not exhaustive— is based on the rich accumulated experience of the region and, for that reason, includes some elements already known and from which valuable lessons have been learned. At any rate, activities of proven efficacy, and not those which have only been implemented asystematically, have been selected. There are, as well, new proposals, the implementation of which will call for especially careful programming. Some grouping of activities will be of specific interest to a certain subregion or grouping of countries. This list of activities, once adjusted in light of the conclusions of the Cairo Conference, will continue to be supplemented by the initiatives of the countries.

A. PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Meetings for overall analysis

78. An overall analysis of the population situation in the region will be undertaken in the biennial meetings of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN). This will not preclude meetings at the subregional level or by groupings of countries with common interests to perform a similar analysis.

2. Seminars for analysis of issues

79. In order to create a forum for the exchange of experiences and knowledge among governmental, non-governmental and academic experts on issues relevant to the formulation, execution and evaluation of population policy and programmes, the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, with the support of the technical secretariat, in association with the relevant specialized organizations, including governmental organizations, will programme and propose to the countries and scientific community, a series of seminars on topics relevant to the national conditions of the countries of the region, in such a way that the technical and scientific treatment of the issue will serve as an input for the Governments of the region in their programmes and policies.

80. Some preliminary proposals:

i) A first seminar would be held in 1995 and would address social and population policies geared to overcome differences in demographic behaviour arising from diverse manifestations of the lack of equity (by gender, social groups, geographic zones, ethnic groups).

ii) A second seminar would also be held in 1995, tentatively on the following topic: Assessing the magnitude, modalities, causes and effects of international migration within the context of the political and socio-economic situation of the countries of the region most affected by this phenomenon.

iii) A third seminar would be held in 1996 tentatively on population information, communications and educational programmes on population issues, with special reference to the issues of reproductive health care, sex education and the prevention of transmissible diseases (such as HIV/AIDS).

iv) A fourth seminar would be held in 1998 tentatively on the relationships between demographic dynamics and the environment, with emphasis on spatial distribution and internal migration.

v) Discussion seminars with authorities of the executive and legislative branches, opinion leaders and political leaders on the interrelationships between population dynamics and the development process. Their purpose will be to strengthen awareness with respect to the importance of decisions with regard to population dynamics, as well as to the advantages of explicitly incorporating demographic variables in the formulation, follow-up and evaluation of economic and social policies.

vi) Seminars for media reporters and social communicators in the mass media and local newspapers, to promote awareness in those professionals with respect to the social importance of population issues, the need to integrate them into development and environmental concerns, as well as the possibility of adopting programmes and policies in that area, when society becomes aware of those issues and political leadership incorporates them into governmental tasks.

3. Thematic workshops

81. The purpose of these issue-focused and brief workshops will respond to the need to create awareness to population issues and help improve the execution of programmes and policies. During the first three years this Plan is in effect, workshops of this type will be held with regard to the following topics and target groups:

i) Workshops to provide for discussion among administrators of family planning services and mother and child programmes —especially those responsible for training and supervision—, in order to generate recommendations with regard to improving the organization, implementation and operational strategies of those services.

ii) Workshops for administrators of family planning programmes designed to create awareness of the use of diverse forms of contraception, including natural methods and with regard to the shared responsibility of men in contraception practice; to encourage the development of forms of counselling, especially those geared for potential users of sterilization, in order to dissipate ignorance with regard to its effects and to advise of the existence of alternatives.

iii) Workshops for doctors and medical students of the region designed to create awareness of the importance of medical records for the formulation of health policies and programmes.

iv) Workshops for research centres and researchers of the region designed to identify needs in the area of socio-demographic studies of common interest for the countries and to promote their implementation.

4. Training activities

82. Training activities will be organized to respond to country demand for training and development of human resources in demography and population at diverse levels —and training to perform applied research and operational tasks in the area of population— at the regional and subregional levels.

83. CELADE and other regional, subregional and national organizations which carry out or may perform functions at the regional level will continue to offer high-level training in population and will continue to consider the training needs of qualified technical personnel in those disciplines, as expressed by the countries on the basis of specific diagnoses. Special attention will be given to new population, environmental and development problems as they emerge in the region. These issues will guide the acceptance of potential students and the design of study programmes, both of the Post-graduate Course on Population and Development, given by CELADE, with UNFPA support, and of intensive regional courses on demographic analysis.

84. Together with the services offered by diverse national organizations in the field of population, any country of the region which deems it necessary could request technical assistance in organizing and offering courses to train specialists in population issues in the region. Special attention will be given to the needs of Central American and Caribbean countries, as well as to other countries in the early phase of demographic transition. Intensive two-week courses will be provided for the Caribbean subregion over the next three years in the following areas:

i) Census evaluation.
ii) Population projections.
iii) The development and institutionalization of family life programmes.
iv) Family planning programming, management and counselling.
v) The development of programmes to address adolescent fertility.
vi) Database development and management.

85. Regional training activities will also include short courses, in which specific topics considered important by the countries will be addressed (census and survey programming, management of family planning programmes, management of sociodemographic projects, use of new technologies to manage sociodemographic information geographically disaggregated, among others). As well, other advanced training and updating modalities will be offered (courses, workshops and seminars) for persons already qualified in the field of population. Finally, attention will be given to the possibility of providing home learning courses.

86. In order to respond to insufficiencies in training, during the first year this Regional Plan is in effect, the necessary steps will be taken to form a working group to collect and systematize, on the basis of accumulated experience, support material for courses on population and development. That group will

prepare material, taking into account the current demand, supply and existing resources, and —if deemed appropriate— with the collaboration of organizations with experience in that activity.

5. Working groups

87. Existing working groups will be strengthened and the formation of others with national specialists will be encouraged to collaborate in the identification of the progress in the different areas and in the evaluation of national needs in those matters. If possible, they should help create methodological instruments for the design and implementation of programmes and policy. Moreover, those working groups will be responsible for contributing to the preparation and implementation of the thematic workshops, foreseen in this Plan, for the exchange of experiences.

88. In accordance with the activities contained in those thematic workshops, action will be coordinated to implement, during the first years this Regional Plan is in effect, working groups on the following topics: relationships between demographic dynamics and poverty, taking into account the possibilities of breaking the "vicious circle" of poverty as conceived within the strategy of changing the patterns of production with social equity; the environment, within the context of sustainable development, with special emphasis on spatial distribution and migratory flows; migration and the international mobility of population, with special attention given to the processes of economic globalization and the integration of markets; information, communications and educational programmes on population, with special reference to the issues of reproductive health, sex education and the prevention of transmissible diseases such as AIDS; and social and population policies geared to overcome differences in demographic behaviour arising from diverse manifestations of the lack of equity (gender, social groups, geographic areas).

6. Horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region[7]

89. Horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region, in accordance with the initiative of the countries, will be facilitated by the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, with the support of the technical secretariat, through consultation with the countries which will benefit from the technical cooperation and with the countries supplying it. The contents, number of actions and execution periods will depend on each specific problem to be addressed and the possibilities of the countries which will be providing that potential cooperation. The Presiding Officers of CEGAN, with the collaboration of the secretariat, will also facilitate bilateral or multilateral agreements, and in accordance with the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, for the purpose of achieving the objectives and goals of this Regional Plan of Action more easily.

90. Without prejudice to the issues proposed by the countries concerned, the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, in coördination with existing organizations, will encourage horizontal cooperation among countries with a view to improving sources of information, data exchange and the communication of the results of research to nurture diagnoses, periodic national and regional reports and the implementation of policy and programmes with regard to population issues integrated into economic and social development. Other high priority areas for horizontal cooperation are the design and execution of

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[7] These activities complement, but do not replace, existing mechanisms.

population policy; specific policies related to the spatial distribution of the population and to environmental issues; the implementation of family planning services; population information, educational and communications programmes; and the institutionalization of population policies.

91. To support this type of cooperation, a directory of institutions and professionals specialized in population issues will be maintained and broadened, in consultation and coordination with the Latin American Programme of Population Activities (PROLAP), the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and other national and international entities. Reference data on researchers, technicians and other persons with experience in the formulation and execution of policy and programmes, in either the public or private sector, will be fed into that directory.

92. As soon as this Regional Plan is in effect, initiatives will be undertaken to promote agreements among countries with regard to international migration. To that end, the collaboration of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will be sought. Those agreements will, among other things, seek to ensure respect for the rights of migrants and their families on the part of receiving countries, as well as non-discrimination in the labour market, in access to social services (education, health care, housing, justice, social security) and in the enjoyment of the benefits of the liberty and participation proper to all democratic societies.

93. Likewise, in cooperation with IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), starting with the first year of implementation of this Regional Plan, agreements will be reached among countries to obtain the support of the international community for increased attention to repatriation and resettlement programmes for refugee or displaced populations, so as to contribute to their effective reincorporation into the economic and social development process. Similarly, the adoption of agreements among countries in other areas of common interest will be encouraged. Special efforts will be made to ensure that the international community participates in activities designed to ensure a better understanding of the courses of mass exoduses and in the search for solutions which recognize the basic human rights and the vulnerability of emigrants. As well, the collaboration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) will be called upon to achieve the support of the international community for refugee and displaced them into the economic and social development process. Similarly, agreements will be sought among the countries in other fields of common interest.

7. Joint research

94. The countries of the region will organize and implement research projects at regional and subregional levels, as well as comparative or complementary studies among countries. National governmental and non-governmental institutions competent in the area of population studies, with the methodological and analytical cooperation of specialized international and regional institutions, will collaborate in that task. The objective of that research is to broaden and deepen knowledge about key aspects of population dynamics, their variables and the socio-economic and cultural context which determine them, and about the relationships between population, the environment and poverty, and to develop policy and programmatic recommendations, on the basis of the results of research already performed in the countries of the region.

95. The following activities are suggested for inclusion in those joint research projects:

i) To identify and measure the concrete relationships between environmental and demographic variables, in order to propose a first level of programmatic congruence, especially with regard to ecosystems where regional or frontier integration is being promoted, as well as in the small island and low-lying coastal countries.

ii) To explain the relationship between human settlement patterns, including urbanization trends, internal migratory flows and economic, social, cultural and political variables, especially in terms of the environment, employment and poverty.

iii) To determine the magnitude, modalities and causes and effects of international mobility, within the context of the political and socio-economic situation of the countries of the region most affected by this phenomenon; special attention should be paid to the impact of international mobility upon the working age population. Emphasis should also be given to the analysis of the repercussions of the economic integration processes on population mobility and other aspects of demographic dynamics.

iv) To identify the sociocultural factors at play in sexual and reproductive behaviour, especially in the use of contraceptives; to intensify operational research from an integrated perspective, in order to improve reproductive health care, especially family planning services, and the efficiency of population educational and communications programmes. To study the magnitude, as well as the causes and effects, of induced abortion in order to propose more specific action in this regard. To consider different biomedical and socio-cultural aspects of the relationship between reproductive health and maternal-infant mortality.

v) To identify the causal factors and effects of adolescent fertility, in order to elaborate policies which will favour the reincorporation of teenage mothers into educational, work and general social activities.

vi) To comprehend in greater depth the socio-demographic characteristics of the indigenous populations and diverse ethnic groups, in order to ensure the adaptation of the measures taken in the areas of population and development to those groups.

vii) To analyse the socio-economic trends and effects of the ageing process with a view to suggesting policy measures related, especially, to social security systems and health care.

viii) To research the effects of the processes of "structural adjustment" on demographic variables and their impact on the role and structure of the family.

96. Those projects should provide criteria to serve as a basis for Governments as they adopt population policies and programmes and, when pertinent, should include the perspective of gender issues in the development of that research. Subregions with particular interest in specific subjects should coordinate research in those areas.

8. Data banks and regional information networks

97. Fulfilment of the objectives and goals of this Regional Plan requires effective mechanisms for communication and information exchange. Thus, it is necessary to reinforce and improve existing mechanisms and to propose new initiatives. Inter alia, the following activities are suggested:

i) To maintain and strengthen the regional bibliographic data base related to population (Latin American Population Documentation System, DOCPAL) and ensure its services to the countries and international organizations which support this Plan.

ii) To support the development of the Latin American and Caribbean Population Information Network (IPALCA) between national and regional centres. As well, to encourage interconnections among national, regional and global networks on population issues and the like, such as the United Nations Population Information Network.

iii) To strengthen and maintain a bibliographic database on population in the Caribbean subregion, which will be linked to other regional bibliographic databases.

iv) To maintain the regional census data bank managed by CELADE, requesting the countries to provide the 1990s round of census archives or samples for that purpose. To further develop the socio-demographic data bank in ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.[8]

v) To continue the programme of Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA), which consists in gathering the records of those "born abroad" and their characteristics, as numbered in national population censuses. To ensure the delivery of that information, including a basic analysis, to interested countries.[9]

vi) To develop and maintain a data bank on international and interregional migration for the Caribbean subregion in order to gather the records of those "born abroad" as well as those "gone abroad" and their characteristics, as numbered in national censuses and other records.

vii) To ensure the continuance of the Household Survey Data Bank, managed by the Statistics Division of ECLAC, and up-to-date and timely delivery of that information.[10]

viii) To promote improved access to available information from health and fertility surveys.

ix) To favour the strengthening of user networks of information systems based on multisectoral data banks and automated cartography procedures. To promote the exchange of experiences in the use of REDATAM-Plus (retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer) and geographic information systems.

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[8] In these cases, as has been the custom, the receiving entity will not process information requests, at the level of microdata, until express instructions have been received from the proper national authorities.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

x) To promote communication between national organizations and specialized organizations, through systems of electronic mail with user access, in order to ensure and improve the activities called for by this plan, at low cost.

xi) To publish a periodic bulletin which will make it possible for the countries of the region to be informed of the activities undertaken within the framework of the Regional Plan for Action.

B. COORDINATION, FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW MECHANISMS

98. A Special ECLAC Sessional Committee on Population and Development consisting of representatives of Latin American and Caribbean member countries should be charged with the ultimate responsibility for following-up and the revision of issues related to population and development, including the Regional Plan of Action. The meetings of the Special Committee should be complemented by a mechanism which will ensure the continuance of that coordination and the follow-up and review during the periods between those meetings and will also convene, organize and support those meetings. That mechanism will be the Presiding Officers of the Special Committee, which will perform the coordination and follow-up of the actions of this Regional Plan. The ECLAC secretariat will act as secretariat. In the case of the subregional action plans on population and development, the formulation, execution, coordination, follow-up and evaluation will be carried out by the appropriate subregional organizations and mechanisms. In the case of the Caribbean subregion, this organization will be CDCC.

99. In the biennial meetings of the Special Committee, the agenda will include the analysis of the implementation of the actions provided for in this Regional Plan; the following basic agenda is proposed:

i) Analysis of progress in the execution of the diverse components of the Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, including the exchange of experiences, agreements among countries and horizontal cooperation.

ii) Evaluation of the degree of institutionalization of population policies and programmes; main achievements and obstacles to their execution.

iii) Other topics proposed by the countries of the region, arising from the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, or new socio-demographic situations in the region.

100. The ECLAC secretariat will assist the Presiding Officers of the Special Committee and designated subregional organizations in coordinating the execution of regional and subregional activities. It will fulfil that function in close cooperation with the international organizations and relevant areas within the United Nations, especially UNFPA.

101. In the spirit of the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, the Presiding Officers of the Sessional Committee, in consultation with the ECLAC secretariat, will explore and investigate new forms and sources of financing to strengthen ECLAC/CELADE, with particular emphasis on its activities in Central America, and the subregional offices of ECLAC, in order to benefit countries and meet their needs. By the same token, the actions of UNFPA in the region should be strengthened.

C. FINANCING OF REGIONAL PLAN ACTIVITIES

102. The countries of the region adopted the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development at the Regional Conference, held in Mexico City between 29 April and 4 May 1993. That Consensus contains repeated recommendations to increase the contributions of the international community (developed countries, other bilateral donors and multilateral organizations) for population concerns (see paragraphs II.7.1, II.8.1, II.8.2, II.8.4 and II.8.9).

103. By adopting the declaration included in that Consensus, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed "their commitment to apply their recommendations and, in this context, to take the necessary steps to that end, at the institutional level and in the domestic mobilization of resources" (paragraph II.8.11).

104. To ensure the implementation of this Plan, a budget must be prepared, detailing items of expenditure and contributions from the international community and the region itself. A budget for 1995 will be prepared; subsequently, starting in 1996-1997, biennial budgets will be prepared.

105. Resources for the implementation of the Plan will consist of contributions in kind, services and financial resources contributed voluntarily by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, contributions from regional and international bodies, voluntary contributions from the developed countries members of ECLAC and other members of the international community and contributions from the various non-governmental organizations. The Presiding Officers will propose a plan for obtaining resources and measures for ensuring that specific projects and the Plan as a whole are properly implemented, for which purpose they will seek the support of the secretariat and UNFPA.

ANNEX

Diagram 1

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: COUNTRY SITUATION BY STAGE IN DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1985 - 1990

Birth rate

	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
HIGH		NICARAGUA 3.5 GUATEMALA 3.2 HONDURAS 3.2 BELIZE 3.2 EL SALVADOR 2.6 PARAGUAY 2.8 II	BOLIVIA 2.6 HAITI 2.3 I
MODERATE	GRENADA 2.5 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 2.5 MEXICO 2.4 COSTA RICA 2.5 VENEZUELA 2.3 SURINAME 2.2 PANAMA 2.2 COLOMBIA 2.0 DOMINICA 1.9 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 1.9 SAINT LUCIA 1.9 JAMAICA 1.7 SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES 1.8	ECUADOR 2.5 PERU 2.2 III BRAZIL 1.9 GUYANA 1.9 SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS 1.1	
LOW	CHILE 1.7 BAHAMAS 1.5 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLAND 1.3 MARTINIQUE 1.2 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 1.1 CUBA 1.1	IV GUADALOUPE 1.3 ARGENTINA 1.3 PUERTO RICO 1.1 URUGUAY 0.8 BARBADOS 0.7 MONTSERRAT 0.6	

Death rate

Rates per thousands:
Birth rate: HIGH: 32 - 45 MODERATE: 24 - 32 LOW: 10 - 24
Death rate: HIGH: 11 - 16 MODERATE: 7 - 11 LOW: 4 - 7

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992; Boland, Barbara, *Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean* (DDR/2), ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, reference document prepared for the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992.

Note: Next to each country, the natural population increase is expressed as a percentage.

Table 1
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TOTAL POPULATION, 1950-2000
(In thousands)

Country or territory	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Regional total	**165 121**	**216 615**	**283 204**	**358 925**	**441 063**	**522 961**
Latin America	**158 812**	**209 213**	**274 540**	**349 200**	**430 184**	**510 941**
Argentina	17 150	20 616	23 962	28 237	32 322	36 238
Bolivia	2 766	3 428	4 325	5 581	7 171	9 038
Brazil	53 444	72 594	95 847	121 286	149 042	172 777
Colombia	11 946	15 939	21 360	26 525	32 300	37 822
Costa Rica	862	1 236	1 731	2 284	3 034	3 798
Cuba	5 850	6 985	8 520	9 679	10 608	11 504
Chile	6 082	7 614	9 504	11 145	13 173	15 272
Ecuador	3 310	4 413	6 051	8 123	10 547	13 090
El Salvador	1 940	2 570	3 588	4 525	5 172	6 425
Guatemala	2 969	3 964	5 246	6 917	9 197	12 222
Haiti	3 261	3 804	4 520	5 353	6 486	7 959
Honduras	1 401	1 935	2 627	3 662	5 138	6 846
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mexico	27 297	36 530	50 328	67 046	84 486	102 555
Nicaragua	1 109	1 502	2 063	2 802	3 676	5 169
Panama	839	1 105	1 487	1 956	2 418	2 893
Paraguay	1 351	1 774	2 351	3 147	4 277	5 538
Peru	7 632	9 931	13 193	17 295	21 550	26 276
Dominican Republic	2 353	3 231	4 423	5 697	7 170	8 621
Uruguay	2 239	2 538	2 808	2 914	3 094	3 274
Venezuela	5 009	7 502	10 604	15 024	19 321	23 622
The Caribbean	**6 309**	**7 402**	**8 664**	**9 725**	**10 879**	**12 020**
Anguila	5	6	6	7	7	8
Antigua and Barbuda	46	55	66	61	65	70
Netherlands Antilles	116	137	162	171	175	178
Aruba	57	59	61	60	61	63
Bahamas	79	110	170	210	255	295
Barbados	211	231	239	249	257	268
Belize	67	91	120	146	189	229
Dominique	51	60	70	75	72	71
Grenada	76	90	94	89	91	94
Guadaloupe	210	275	320	327	390	437
French Guiana	25	33	49	69	98	130
Guyana	423	569	709	759	796	883
Cayman Islands	6	9	10	17	27	40
British Virgin Islands	6	7	10	12	16	21
United States Virgin Islands	27	33	64	98	107	109
Jamaica	1 403	1 629	1 869	2 133	2 420	2 677
Martinique	222	282	326	326	360	391
Montserrat	14	12	11	12	11	11
Puerto Rico	2 219	2 358	2 718	3 206	3 530	3 853
Saint Kitts and Nevis	44	51	47	44	42	41
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	67	80	87	98	107	117
Saint Lucia	79	86	101	115	133	152
Suriname	215	290	372	352	422	500
Trinidad and Tobago	636	843	971	1 082	1 236	1 365
Turks and Caicos Islands	5	6	6	7	12	17

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

Table 2

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: GLOBAL BIRTH RATE BY FIVE YEAR PERIODS, BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1950-2000

Countries	Five year periods									
	1950-1955	1955-1960	1960-1965	1965-1970	1970-1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000
Latin America	**5.9**	**5.9**	**6.0**	**5.6**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**3.9**	**3.4**	**3.1**	**2.8**
The Caribbean and others [a]	**5.2**	**5.1**	**5.5**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**3.0**	**2.8**	**2.8**
Group I										
Bolivia	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.2	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.1
Haiti	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6
Group II										
El Salvador	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.1	5.7	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.6
Guatemala	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.1	5.8	5.4	4.9
Honduras	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4	6.6	6.2	5.6	4.9	4.3
Nicaragua	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.2	6.8	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.0	4.5
Paraguay	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.4	5.7	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.1
Group III										
Brazil	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.3	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.4
Colombia	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.3	4.7	4.1	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.5
Costa Rica	6.7	7.1	7.0	5.8	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.0
Ecuador	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.1	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.2
Guyana	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.1	4.9	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.3
Jamaica	4.2	5.1	5.6	5.8	5.0	4.0	3.6	2.7	2.4	2.1
Mexico	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.4	5.0	4.3	3.6	3.2	2.8
Panama	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.6	4.9	4.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.7
Peru	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	5.4	4.7	4.0	3.6	3.2
Dominican Republic	7.4	7.4	7.3	6.7	5.6	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.3	3.0
Suriname	6.6	6.6	6.6	5.9	5.3	4.2	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.4
Trinidad and Tobago	5.3	5.3	5.0	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.5
Venezuela	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.9	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.9
Group IV										
Argentina	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7
Bahamas	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.9
Barbados	4.7	4.7	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.9
Cuba	4.1	3.7	4.7	4.3	3.5	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0
Chile	5.1	5.3	5.3	4.4	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6
Guadaloupe	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.2	4.5	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.0
Martinique	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0	4.1	2.7	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9
Puerto Rico	5.0	4.8	4.4	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1
Uruguay	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

[a] Includes Anguila, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Table 3

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1950-2000

Region and countries	Life expectancy			Five year period increase		Life expectancy
	1950-1955	1970-1975	1985-1990	1950-1955 a 1970-1975	1970-1975 a 1985-1990	Year 2000
Latin America	**51.8**	**61.3**	**66.7**	**2.4**	**1.8**	**69.8**
The Caribbean and others [a]	**52.0**	**63.1**	**67.6**	**2.8**	**1.5**	**70.3**
Group I						
Bolivia	40.4	46.7	58.8	1.6	4.0	64.5
Haiti	37.6	48.5	54.7	2.7	2.1	59.4
Group II						
El Salvador	45.3	58.8	62.4	3.4	1.2	69.1
Guatemala	42.1	54.0	62.0	3.0	2.7	68.1
Honduras	42.3	54.0	64.0	2.9	3.3	68.2
Nicaragua	42.3	55.2	62.4	3.2	2.4	69.2
Paraguay	62.6	65.6	66.9	0.7	0.4	67.9
Group III						
Brazil	51.0	59.8	64.9	2.2	1.7	68.0
Colombia	50.6	61.6	68.2	2.8	2.2	70.7
Costa Rica	57.3	68.1	75.3	2.7	2.4	77.1
Ecuador	48.4	58.9	65.4	2.6	2.2	68.2
Guyana	52.3	60.0	63.2	1.9	1.1	67.7
Jamaica	57.2	68.6	72.5	2.9	1.3	75.1
Mexico	50.8	62.9	68.8	3.0	2.0	72.0
Panama	55.3	66.3	72.1	2.8	1.9	73.5
Peru	43.9	55.5	61.4	2.9	2.0	67.9
Dominican Republic	46.0	59.9	65.9	3.5	2.0	69.7
Suriname	56.0	64.0	68.8	2.0	1.6	72.1
Trinidad and Tobago	58.2	65.7	70.1	1.9	1.5	73.1
Venezuela	55.2	66.2	69.7	2.8	1.1	71.3
Group IV						
Argentina	62.7	67.3	70.6	1.1	1.1	72.3
Bahamas	59.8	66.6	71.1	1.7	1.5	73.9
Barbados	57.2	69.4	74.6	3.1	1.7	76.8
Cuba	59.5	71.0	75.2	2.9	1.4	76.3
Chile	53.8	63.6	71.5	2.5	2.6	72.7
Guadaloupe	56.5	67.8	73.6	2.8	1.9	75.9
Martinique	56.5	69.2	75.4	3.2	2.1	77.3
Puerto Rico	64.8	72.5	74.3	1.9	0.6	75.9
Uruguay	66.3	68.8	72.0	0.6	1.1	73.0

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

[a] Includes Anguila, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Table 4

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH, 1950-2000

(Percentages)

Region and countries	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
Regional total	**2.71**	**2.68**	**2.37**	**2.06**	**1.70**
Latin America	**2.76**	**2.72**	**2.41**	**2.09**	**1.72**
Argentina	1.84	1.50	1.64	1.35	1.14
Bolivia	2.15	2.32	2.55	2.51	2.31
Brazil	3.06	2.78	2.35	2.06	1.48
Colombia	2.88	2.93	2.17	1.97	1.58
Costa Rica	3.60	3.37	2.77	2.84	2.25
Cuba	1.77	1.99	1.28	0.92	0.81
Chile	2.25	2.22	1.59	1.67	1.48
Ecuador	2.88	3.16	2.94	2.61	2.16
El Salvador	2.81	3.34	2.32	1.34	2.17
Guatemala	2.89	2.80	2.77	2.85	2.84
Haiti	1.54	1.72	1.69	1.92	2.05
Honduras	3.23	3.06	3.32	3.39	2.87
Mexico	2.91	3.20	2.87	2.31	1.94
Nicaragua	3.03	3.17	3.06	2.71	3.41
Panama	2.75	2.97	2.74	2.12	1.79
Paraguay	2.72	2.82	2.92	3.07	2.58
Peru	2.63	2.84	2.71	2.20	1.98
Dominican Republic	3.17	3.14	2.53	2.30	1.84
Uruguay	1.25	1.01	0.37	0.60	0.57
Venezuela	4.04	3.46	3.48	2.52	2.01
The Caribbean and others	**1.60**	**1.57**	**1.16**	**1.12**	**1.00**
Netherlands Antilles	1.66	1.68	0.54	0.23	0.17
Bahamas	3.31	4.35	2.11	1.94	1.46
Barbados	0.91	0.34	0.41	0.32	0.42
Belize	3.06	2.77	1.96	2.58	1.92
Dominique	1.63	1.54	0.69	-0.41	-0.14
Grenada	1.69	0.43	-0.55	0.22	0.32
Guadaloupe	2.70	1.52	0.22	1.76	1.14
French Guiana	2.78	3.95	3.42	3.51	2.83
Guyana	2.97	2.20	0.68	0.48	1.04
Jamaica	1.49	1.37	1.32	1.26	1.01
Martinique	2.39	1.45	0.00	0.99	0.83
Puerto Rico	0.61	1.42	1.65	0.96	0.88
Saint Lucia	0.85	1.61	1.30	1.45	1.34
Suriname	2.99	2.49	-0.55	1.81	1.70
Trinidad and Tobago	2.82	1.41	1.08	1.33	0.99
Others territories	1.37	1.45	1.22	0.89	0.88
Anguila	1.82	0.00	1.54	0.00	1.34
Antigua and Barbuda	1.79	1.82	-0.79	0.64	0.74
Aruba	0.34	0.33	-0.17	0.17	0.32
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cayman Islands	4.05	1.05	5.31	4.63	3.93
British Virgin Islands	1.54	3.57	1.82	2.88	2.72
United States Virgin Islands	2.01	6.62	4.26	0.88	0.19
Montserrat	-1.54	-0.87	0.87	-0.87	0.00
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1.48	-0.82	-0.66	-0.47	-0.24
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1.77	0.84	1.19	0.88	0.89
Turks and Caicos Islands	1.82	0.00	1.54	5.39	3.48

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

Table 5

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INFANT DEATH RATES 1950-1955, 1970-1975, 1985-1990 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2000, ANNUAL BIRTHS 1985-1990, BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

(Rates per thousand)

Region and countries	Death rate			Five year period reduction		Rate year 2000	Annual births 1985-90	
	1950-1955	1970-1975	1985-1990	1950-1970	1970-1985		Thousands	Percentage
Latin America	**127**	**81**	**54**	**11.5**	**9.0**	**40**	**11 514**	
The Caribbean and others [a]	**124**	**73**	**52**	**12.8**	**7.0**	**41**	**203**	
Total							**11 717**	**100.0**
Group I								
Bolivia	176	151	98	6.3	17.7	67	248	
Haiti	220	135	97	21.3	12.7	72	224	
Total							**472**	**4.0**
Group II								
El Salvador	151	99	59	13.0	13.3	36	172	
Guatemala	141	95	59	11.5	12.0	37	350	
Honduras	185	94	63	22.8	10.3	45	189	
Nicaragua	167	100	71	16.8	9.7	42	150	
Paraguay	73	55	49	4.5	2.0	44	139	
Total							**1 000**	**8.5**
Group III								
Brazil	135	91	63	11.0	9.3	48	3 801	
Colombia	123	73	40	12.5	11.0	33	802	
Costa Rica	94	53	16	10.3	12.3	12	82	
Ecuador	140	95	63	11.3	10.7	49	321	
Guyana	119	79	56	10.0	7.7	39	21	
Jamaica	85	42	17	10.8	8.3	11	57	
Mexico	114	68	41	11.5	9.0	28	2 400	
Panama	93	43	23	12.5	6.7	19	62	
Peru	159	110	88	12.3	7.3	63	636	
Dominican Republic	149	94	65	13.8	9.7	46	213	
Suriname	89	49	33	10.0	5.3	22	11	
Trinidad and Tobago	79	42	24	9.3	6.0	15	32	
Venezuela	106	49	36	14.3	4.3	30	519	
Total							**8 900**	**76.0**
Group IV								
Argentina	66	49	32	4.3	5.7	25	669	
Bahamas	80	32	26	12.0	2.0	17	...	
Barbados	132	33	12	25.8	7.0	9	4	
Cuba	81	39	15	10.5	8.0	13	182	
Chile	126	70	18	14.0	17.3	15	301	
Guadaloupe	68	42	14	6.5	9.3	11	7	
Martinique	65	35	11	7.5	8.0	9	6	
Puerto Rico	63	25	14	9.5	3.7	12	65	
Uruguay	57	46	24	2.8	7.3	16	54	
Total							**1 345**	**11.5**

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

[a] Includes Anguila, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Table 6

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED GLOBAL BIRTH RATE, PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN BETWEEN 15-49 YEARS OLD, CURRENTLY MARRIED, BY KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS AND GLOBAL UNDESIRED BIRTH RATE

(Programme of Demographic and Health Surveys DHS)

Countries	Year of DHS	GBT 1985-1990[a]	Percentage which knows of a modern method[b]	Percentage which currently uses a method	Percentage which currently uses a modern method[b]	Global undesired birth rate[c]
Group I						
Bolivia	1989	5.0	68	30	12	1.8
Group II						
El Salvador	1985	4.5	93	47	45	1.1
Guatemala[d]	1987	5.8	72	23	19	0.7
Paraguay	1990	4.6	96	48	35	1.2
Group III						
Brazil[d]	1986	3.2	100	66	57	0.7
Colombia	1990	2.9	100	66	55	0.7
Ecuador	1987	4.1	90	44	36	0.7
Mexico	1987	3.6	93	53	45	-
Peru	1991	4.0	95	59	33	1.5
Dominican Republic	1991	3.8	100	56	52	0.7
Trinidad and Tobago	1987	3.0	99	53	44	-

Source: Table 2 of the statistical annex; National Reports of the Programme of Demographic and Health Surveys DHS.

[a] Global birth rate.

[b] Mechanical and chemical procedures to impede fecundation.

[c] Corresponds to the difference between the global birth rate and the global desired birth rate recorded by the surveys.

[d] Women aged 15 to 44.

Table 7

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, BY LARGE AGE GROUPS, 1950-2000

(Percentages)

Region and countries	1950			1990			2000		
	<15	15-64	65 and over	<15	15-64	65 and over	<15	15-64	65 and over
Latin America	**40.4**	**56.1**	**3.5**	**35.8**	**59.5**	**4.7**	**31.7**	**62.9**	**5.4**
The Caribbean and others	**39.5**	**55.9**	**4.6**	**31.2**	**62.3**	**6.5**	**30.2**	**63.0**	**6.8**
Group I									
Bolivia	42.0	54.9	3.1	41.4	55.0	3.6	38.1	57.7	4.2
Haiti	36.8	58.0	5.2	40.2	55.7	4.1	39.9	56.3	3.8
Group II									
El Salvador	42.8	54.2	3.1	43.5	52.7	3.8	38.9	56.7	4.4
Guatemala	44.1	53.4	2.6	45.4	51.4	3.2	42.9	53.3	3.7
Honduras	44.7	53.4	1.9	44.6	52.2	3.3	41.2	55.4	3.5
Nicaragua	44.0	53.0	3.0	47.9	49.1	3.0	43.6	53.2	3.2
Paraguay	42.9	53.9	3.2	40.4	56.1	3.6	38.3	58.2	3.6
Group III									
Brazil	42.0	55.5	2.5	34.7	60.7	4.7	29.1	65.3	5.6
Colombia	42.7	53.7	3.7	35.3	60.5	4.2	30.4	64.9	4.7
Costa Rica	43.3	52.9	3.7	36.5	59.3	4.2	33.1	61.8	5.1
Ecuador	41.9	53.5	4.6	39.3	56.9	3.8	34.8	61.0	4.2
Guyana	48.4	48.3	3.3	33.4	62.8	3.8	29.3	66.4	4.3
Mexico	43.0	52.8	4.2	38.0	58.3	3.7	33.8	61.7	4.5
Panama	41.0	55.1	3.9	35.0	60.3	4.8	31.5	63.1	5.4
Peru	41.6	55.0	3.5	37.6	58.6	3.8	33.6	61.8	4.6
Dominican Republic	44.5	52.3	3.2	37.9	58.7	3.4	33.9	61.9	4.3
Suriname	47.5	48.4	4.1	34.0	61.8	4.2	30.9	64.0	5.1
Trinidad and Tobago	43.0	53.0	4.0	34.0	60.5	5.5	30.5	64.0	5.5
Venezuela	43.6	54.6	1.8	37.2	59.1	3.7	32.4	63.1	4.5
Group IV									
Argentina	30.5	65.3	4.2	29.9	61.0	9.1	27.2	62.9	9.8
Barbados	38.1	55.2	6.7	24.5	63.7	11.8	22.2	66.7	11.1
Cuba	35.8	59.3	4.9	22.7	68.8	8.5	23.4	67.3	9.4
Chile	36.7	59.0	4.3	30.6	63.4	6.0	29.4	63.9	6.7
Guadaloupe	43.1	51.8	5.1	27.0	64.1	8.9	27.4	62.8	9.8
Jamaica	41.7	54.0	4.3	33.2	60.2	6.6	28.6	65.0	6.4
Martinique	42.4	53.1	4.5	24.1	65.9	10.0	25.3	63.4	11.3
Puerto Rico	42.8	52.0	5.2	26.0	63.5	10.5	24.6	64.3	11.1
Uruguay	27.9	63.9	8.2	25.8	62.6	11.6	23.9	63.5	12.7

Source: CELADE, current population projections, and United Nations, *World Population Prospects, 1990* (ST/ESA/SER.A/120), New York, 1991.